





## Syria, Iran and Turkey decry alleged plot to dismember Iraq

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran, Syria and Turkey on Friday decry an alleged plot to dismember Iraq amid intra-Kurdish fighting in the north and political turmoil in the capital, Baghdad.

A joint statement released in Tehran after a meeting of the Iranian, Syrian and Turkish foreign ministers also said that international punitive measures against Saddam Hussein's regime "should not be to the detriment of the people of that country."

The meeting coincided with a U.N. Security Council decision Friday to extend the 5-year-old trade embargo of Iraq for another two months.

The statement expressed sympathy for the people of Iraq, where shortages in basic supplies have caused widespread hunger and diseases, but stopped short of calling for an end to the embargo.

Syria and Turkey were key members of the international coalition that routed Iraqi forces in Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war.

Iraq stayed out of that conflict. But it had fought Iraq for eight years in the 1980-88 war, and relations between them remain marred with distrust.

The Tehran meeting was attended by foreign ministers Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran, Farouk Al Sharaa of Syria and Erdal Inonu of Turkey.

"The division of Iraq would have dangerous consequences for peace and stability both at the regional and international levels," said the statement, carried by Tehran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

Later at a joint news conference, the ministers deplored alleged efforts to meddle in Iraq's internal affairs. "It is the people of Iraq who should decide the future of their country," Mr. Velayati told reporters, according to IRNA.

Mr. Velayati said that the absence of Iraqi government control in northern Iraq had encouraged the infighting among Kurds.

As neighbours of Iraq, Turkey, Syria and Iran "cannot afford to be indifferent to that (Kurdish) region so that outsiders are free to do whatever they like," he said.

"Foreign countries are plotting to dismember Iraq, but I think they will not succeed in their sinister goals," added Mr. Velayati.

Fighting in northern Iraq is currently between the Kurdistan Democratic Party, one of the main Iraqi Kurdish groups, and the Turkish Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

The separatist PKK, which uses bases in northern Iraq to wage a guerrilla campaign in Turkey, attacked the KDP last week in an apparent effort to torpedo a U.S.-brokered peace accord between the KDP and its main Iraqi rival, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

The PKK had exploited earlier fighting between the Iraqi factions to step up its campaign in Turkey. A peace pact between the KDP and PUK would severely impede the PKK's ability to operate from northern Iraq.

The self-rule Kurdish zone there emerged from a safe haven established by the Gulf war allies in 1991 to protect Iraq's 3.5 million Kurds from Baghdad regime's vengeance after an ill-fated rebellion.

Iran and Turkey, whose Kurdish minorities are particularly troublesome, oppose the emergence of an independent Kurdish state in Iraq for fear it will encourage their restive Kurds.

There are some 10 million in Turkey and 5.5 million in Iran.

Iraq's neighbours feel that political vacuum in Iraq could fragment the country into a Kurdish-controlled north, Sunni Muslim centre and Shiite Muslim south if the Baghdad regime collapses.

That regime was badly jolted by the defection last month of Hussein Kamel, Saddam Hussein's son-in-law and the brains behind Iraq's clandestine programme to produce weapons of mass destruction.



ANTI-SANCTIONS PROTEST: Iraqi women, holding placards and posters, demonstrate in Baghdad to demand an end to the international sanctions against their country. The U.N. Security Council on Friday decided to extend the sanctions for another 60 days amid signs that serious discussions on lifting the crippling trade embargo might not come for months (see page 1 and 12)

## Rushdie 'comes out' -- but fatwa is still hanging heavy

LONDON (AP) — Salman Rushdie called his first public appearance in six years a "coming out party," but the Iranian death sentence that sent him into hiding was still pervasive.

"The problem hasn't gone away just because I'm able to stand here," the British writer told a packed hall in central London on Thursday. "The Iranian government will still not give a written guarantee to call off the fatwa, or death sentence."

Mr. Rushdie said earlier that he hoped his predicament would not take centre stage at the event, a panel discussion on "Writers Against the State" sponsored by the Times of London.

"It will be nice to resume the normal process of discussing literature within the context of a public meeting rather than the abnormal situation one is in," he told the British national news agency Press Association.

Unlikely — and Mr. Rushdie knew it. He began by saying, "thank you for coming to this little coming out party," and followed that with "as I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted..."

Mr. Rushdie's life was turned upside down after he had incurred the wrath of the late Ayatollah Khomeini with his 1989 novel "The Satanic Verses." The book included satirical treatments of the Islamic faith.

The Iranian leader issued the fatwa, and his government backed it up with the promise of \$1 million award to whoever carried out the deed. Mr. Rushdie promptly went underground.

He would occasionally reemerge for a surprise appearance — joking around with U.S. talk-show host David Letterman, reviewing the Rolling Stones' voodoo lounge concert at Wembley (he sang along), warbling with Bono at a U2 concert.

Meanwhile, European government representatives cajoled and threatened cash-strapped Iran, until this June the Islamic state made a verbal commitment that it would no longer back any assassination attempt.

It was not enough for Mr. Rushdie's backers, who are maintaining their call for a boycott of Iran until it commits in writing. "But it led Scotland Yard — with whom Mr. Rushdie has developed a close, personal relationship — to clear the way for Thursday evening's event."

For the first time since the fatwa, a Rushdie event was advertised a week in advance. The venue — a Methodist church hall with shouting distance of the houses of parliament — was sold out.

Only one Muslim demonstrator showed, handing out "Decency Vs. Obscenity" leaflets. "Others probably don't want to give him the prominence," said the demonstrator, who refused to be identified.

Mr. Rushdie was joined on the stage by other novelists well-known in Britain: Martin Amis ("The Information"), Fay Weldon ("The Life and Loves of a She-Devil") and Melvyn Bragg ("A Time to Dance").

But it was Rushdie the faithful ran the security gauntlet and paid £10 (£16) a ticket to see.

Dwarfed by a gargantuan church organ, wearing a sensible dark suit and a gray

tie, his faithful laughed at every joke and applauded each pronouncement.

He enjoyed the attention, humming up a reading from his latest acclaimed novel, "The Moor's Last Sigh," with Indian and Russian accents. He cheerfully debated Roland Barthes' notions with the audience, summing up the French structuralist's views as being "the writer does not know what he is doing — but the critic does."

Only the inevitable return to politics brought Mr. Rushdie down. When one Rushdie told him he enjoyed "The Satanic Verses" except for some chapters he found unnecessary, Mr. Rushdie snapped: "What can I say about unnecessary chapters? I disagree with you; I thought they were necessary."

Mr. Rushdie said that the theme of writers against the state was not entirely appropriate to a British venue.

"I have been personally the beneficiary of a great deal of backing from the state," he noted. "The police know how much I appreciate what they have done for me... we have been collaborators in a great adventure."

He said he hoped that from now on he could deflect attention away from his own trials, and focus on writers persecuted in countries like Nigeria, China, Turkey and Algeria. He announced plans to raise funds for censored writers.

Antagonising the powers that be was a necessary function of the writer, Mr. Rushdie said — and was becoming more dangerous.

"Voltaire advised writers to live near a frontier, so they could nip across," he said. "That is no longer a safeguard."

## 2 Saudis executed for sodomy, murder

DUBAI (R) — Two Saudis were executed in Saudi Arabia after being convicted in two separate cases of sodomy and murder, a Saudi newspaper said on Saturday.

Dhuwaili Ben Mohammad Ben Nasser Al Sahli was found guilty of being the ring-leader of a gang that kidnapped boys, raped them, stole cars and robbed homes. He was beheaded in Riyadh on Friday, the English-language Saudi Gazette newspaper said.

Saudi radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said 11 of his accomplices received prison terms of between two and 15 years with additional punishment of 200 to 1,500 lashes of the whip at 50 lashes a time.

The Saudi Gazette said another Saudi, Humaidi Ben Ghazi Ben Hanool Al Harbi, was beheaded in Bureida on Friday for killing another Saudi following a dispute between them.

Public beheading by the sword in line with Sharia Islamic law are usually carried out in Saudi Arabia after the noon Friday prayers. But executions have risen sharply this year and beheadings are carried out throughout the week.

Since last Friday, 20 people, including seven Indian men convicted of robbery and murder and two Saudi nationals found guilty of rape, have been beheaded in the kingdom, bringing the total since Jan. 1 to 168.

According to unofficial counts, 53 people were beheaded in Saudi Arabia in 1994 while 85 were executed the previous year.

## Libya threatens to withdraw from games

ROME (R) — Libya has threatened to pull out of the first world military games unless its athletes are allowed to wear shirts with a slogan protesting against United Nations sanctions, organisers said.

Libya was cautioned by officials this week after its soccer team wore shirts with the slogan "nonembargo" during a match against host country Italy last Sunday.

The head of the Libyan delegation, Colonel Ahmad Al Shabi, said Libya would withdraw if the slogan was banned.

"If (the organisers) insist in their request, we are seriously considering pulling our team out," he said.

The 88 Libyans competing in the games have also worn track suits with the words "Nonembargo" around a design showing a clenched fist gripping a U.S. warplane.

The United States has a large contingent of military personnel at the games. "The words and the symbol do not offend anyone," said Col. Shabi. "They merely express the protest of the Libyan people against an embargo that has caused a lot of damage."

The U.N. Security Council imposed sanctions against Libya in 1992 for Tripoli's refusal to hand over for trial two suspects indicted in the United States and Britain over the bombing of a Pan Am Airliner in December 1988.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mahdi to be elected imam of Ansar

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The Sudanese religious sect of Ansar will elect former Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi as its imam, a Khartoum independent daily reported Saturday. Akhbar Al Yom said the imam of the Ansar mosque in Omdurman announced Friday that "there is a consensus for electing Sadeq Al Mahdi as an imam for the Ansar." The sect's last imam was Al Hadi Al Mahdi, who was killed by former President Jaafar Numeiri in 1970 and since then the prestigious office has remained vacant. It seems that Ahmad Al Mahdi, an uncle of Sadeq Al Mahdi, who aspired for the office since the death of his brother, has relinquished contesting for it in favour of his nephew. The Ansar sect is the popular base of the now dissolved political Umma Party which is headed by Sadeq Al Mahdi.

### Afghan minister ends visit to Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Afghan Foreign Minister Najibullah Lafrai wound up a visit here focused on the Taliban militia's capture of all of western Afghanistan bordering Iran, Afghan sources said Saturday. They said Mr. Lafrai left on Thursday night with General Abdullah, the Afghan defence ministry's spokesman whom the Taliban said they captured while taking the city of Herat. The foreign minister held "secret" talks with Iranian officials since Tuesday, when the government lost control of Herat and the western province of the same name. Iran reacted by sealing its border with Afghanistan and warned the militia, led by religious students, to stay clear of border regions with the Islamic republic. The Foreign Ministry on Friday urged Afghan factions to stop fighting.

### Sudan hands over 4 wanted men to Libya

CAIRO (AFP) — Sudanese authorities have handed over four wanted Libyan Muslim fundamentalists to Tripoli, the Arab newspaper Al Hayat reported Saturday. The London-based daily said the extradition took place during a visit by Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir for the 30th anniversary of the Libyan revolution on September 1. Libyan authorities blamed Islamic extremist infiltrators from Sudan and Egypt for troubles which broke out in the eastern city of Benghazi in June. Travellers to Egypt and Arab diplomats here have said around 30 people were killed in clashes between police and Muslim extremists on Wednesday, in a new outbreak of violence in Benghazi. Tripoli denied the reports.

### Israeli held for attempted rape

NICOSIA (AFP) — An Israeli tourist has been arrested on suspicion of trying a rape an Irish barmaid in the Cypriot coastal resort of Ayia Napa, police said Saturday. Police said the woman, aged 24 like the suspect Ilan Ishag Harpe, was sleeping when a man climbed through her apartment window early on Friday morning. She told police the man jumped on her and tried to rape her, but her cries alerted a flatmate who came in and scared the assailant away. The Israeli tourist, who also holds a South African passport, was arrested later the same day. He arrived on the island only hours before the attempted rape.

### Sudanese students seek colleagues' release

KHARTOUM (R) — About 20 students held a silent demonstration at Sudan's Khartoum University on Saturday to demand the release of three colleagues arrested a week ago, witnesses said. The students lined up along a street which runs through the campus and displayed placards calling for their colleagues' release. One of the students told Reuters the three detained students had been arrested for political reasons but did not elaborate. The University of Khartoum, the oldest and the most prestigious institution of higher learning in Sudan, has been the hotbed of opposition to successive governments in Khartoum. Last July, about 4,000 students demonstrated against Sudanese President Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir while he was addressing another group of students.

### Workers hold sit-in in northern Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Several hundred workers staged a sit-in at a textile factory in a northern Iranian city on Saturday to protest at being laid off by their new management, residents of the city said. Chanting Allahu Akbar, the workers camped on a main street in Ghacem-Shahr, demanding to be reinstated and paid their four-month backlog of salaries, they said. The factory had been sold to the private sector as part of a government programme to privatise industry and make it more efficient. Police and anti-riot units of the elite Revolutionary Guards sealed off the street and forced the workers to leave and hold their protest at the site of the factory, residents said. Labour unrest has been on the rise in Iran as more companies are transferred to the private sector, which has been laying off workers in over-stuffed factories. The government nationalised many industrial units after the 1979 Islamic revolution, but most of them soon began incurring losses. Iranian labour law does not explicitly recognise the right of workers to strike although it allows them to stop work provided they remain at the site of their factory.

### EU to step up pressure on Turkey

SANTANDER (R) — European Union (EU) foreign ministers agreed on Saturday to throw their weight behind efforts to ensure that a key customs union deal with Turkey goes through by the end of the year. "There will be a two-pronged strategy," German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel told reporters during a break on the first day of a two-day meeting. "First to persuade Turkey that its constitutional changes are not enough, and second to put pressure on the European Parliament to approve the accord," he said.

## Muslim Brotherhood says Egypt arrests will backfire

CAIRO (AFP) — The Muslim Brotherhood said Saturday that President Hosni Mubarak's order for 50 of its members to go on trial in military court was likely to backfire in Egypt's parliamentary elections.

The order issued last week would "turn in our favour" because it has led to increased sympathy for us from the population, "amid condemnation from the opposition and a human rights group, spokesman Maamun Hodeiby told AFP.

He said Brotherhood members were still determined to run in the elections due in November.

Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi on Monday denied charges that the decision to put Brotherhood members on trial was aimed at blocking the group from taking part in the polls.

He said the Brotherhood was not a licensed political party and that its members

"committed violations that constitute a crime under the law."

The 50 members are charged with having "broken the law on organising political parties" and for trying to "recreate a banned party," in the first such trial since Brotherhood leader Sayed Qutb was condemned to death in 1965.

The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights said the decision to put the Brothers before military courts was a "grave indication" that the courts were being used not only against "violence and terrorism."

The courts "can also be directed against political opponents whatever their ideologies," it said.

The Brotherhood, set up in 1929 and banned in 1954, has been tolerated since the mid-1970s when it renounced violence in its bid to set up an Islamic state. The group has boycotted previous elections.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

<b>JORDAN TELEVISION</b> Tel: 773111-19	
<b>PROGRAMME TWO</b>	
14:00	The Flintstones
14:30	Joshua Jones
14:45	The Mighty Jungle
15:00	Pugwall Summer
15:30	Time Riders
16:00	Families
17:00	
Children's Programme — Rahan	
17:30	Telafim — Le J.A.P
18:00	News in French
19:15	Udhua
19:30	News Headlines
19:35	Nurses
20:00	Cinema, Cinema
20:30	The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15	Starbhair
22:00	News in English
22:30	Drama — Countessdrike
23:10	Return to Eden
00:30	Keeping Up Appearances
<b>PRAYER TIMES</b>	
04:52	Fajr
06:11	Sunrise/Duha
12:33	Dhuhr
16:06	Asr
18:54	Maghrib
20:12	Isha
<b>CHURCHES</b>	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish, Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation Tel. 673440. De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terresanta Church Tel. 622366 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541. Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 625843. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Assange International Church Tel. 625236. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328. German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195 The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932 Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691. The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
<b>WEATHER</b>	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology, Amman. The weather is generally clear with a slight increase in cloudiness during the next two days with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp. Amman ..... 18/31 Aqaba ..... 25 / 39	

Deserts ..... 17 / 34 Jordan Valley ..... 24 / 38	Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417	RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200 Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200	AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital ..... 021314111
<b>YESTERDAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES:</b> Amman 30, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.			
<b>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</b>			
<b>NIGHT DUTY</b>			
<b>AMMAN:</b>			
Dr. Bassam Karadeh ..... 759200			
Dr. Osama Husseini ..... 847299			
Dr. Muneer Al Khatib ..... 753078			
Dr. Fakher Bilbisi ..... 634372			
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912			
Ferdous pharmacy ..... 783336			
Al Azema pharmacy ..... 673055			
Nairookh pharmacy ..... 623672			
Al Salem pharmacy ..... 636730			
Nashab pharmacy ..... 644945			
Shamsat pharmacy ..... 637641			
Sawouh pharmacy ..... 636472			
Najih pharmacy ..... 847632			
<b>JORDAN:</b>			
Dr. Ali Al Omari ..... 272032			
Alkudat pharmacy ..... (—)			
<b>ZARQA:</b>			
Dr. Abdul Karim Khushashneh ..... 983623			
Electric Power Company ..... 815615			
<b>AMMAN:</b>			
Food Control Centre ..... 637111			
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111			
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199			
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777			
Fire Brigade ..... 617101			
Blood Bank ..... 775121			
Highway Police ..... 843402			
Traffic Police ..... 696390			
Public Security Department ..... 630321			
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800			
Price Complaints ..... 661176			
Water and Sewerage ..... 697467			
Complaints ..... 787111			
Amman Municipality ..... 623101			
Aldali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101			
Jordan Television ..... 773111			
Radio Jordan ..... 774111			
Water Authority ..... 680100			
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615			
<b>RJ FLIGHT INFORMATION</b>			
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200			
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200			
<b>HOSPITALS</b>			
<b>AMMAN:</b>			
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32			
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Ann ..... 644281/6			
Al-Khalifeh Maternity, J. Ann ..... 644281/6			
Jahat Amman Maternity ..... 642441/2			
Mithas, J. Ann ..... 632610			
Palestine, Shmiesani ..... 664171/4			
Shmiesani Hospital ..... 669131			
University Hospital ..... 843845			
Al-Mushtak Hospital ..... 667277/9			
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666173/7			
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6			
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 771101/3			
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775111/26			
Army, Ma'na ..... 891611/15			
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50			
ZARQA:			
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... 091983323			
Zarqa National Hospital ..... 091900560			
Jbn Sina Hospital ..... 091986732			
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... 091909090			
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ..... 865199			
<b>JORDAN:</b>			
Princess Basma Hospital ..... 021273555			
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... 021272775			
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital ..... 021347101			

<b>FOR THE TRAVELLER</b>	
<b>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</b>	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)532000-5, where it should always be verified.	
<b>ARRIVALS</b>	
<b>Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)</b>	
06:15	Aqaba (RJ)
06:25	Madrid (RJ)
06:30	Beirut (RJ)
06:40	Frankfurt (RJ)
11:30	Vicenza, Munich (RJ)
12:10	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:15	Rome (RJ)
12:15	Azraq, Irbid (RJ)
12:40	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
13:25	Athens (RJ)
21:20	Cairo (RJ)
21:20	Jeddah (RJ)
21:25	New Delhi (RJ)
22:30	

22:45 ..... Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)	28:40 ..... Rome (RJ)
23:00 ..... Dubai (RJ)	22:00 ..... Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
23:30 ..... Beirut (RJ)	22:15 ..... Vienna, Munich (RJ)
23:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Bangkok (RJ)	01:15 ..... Cairo



## British Airways official says airline looks to profit from state of peace

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The state of peace between Jordan and Israel and the traditional stability and security in the Kingdom have caught the attention of major tour operators around the world, and British Airways seeks to have its share of the market while also contributing to developing tourism to Jordan, a senior BA official said Saturday.

John Watson, senior sales manager of BA and the third senior-most executive in the British carrier, was speaking at the formal opening of a new BA office in Amman by Minister of Tourism Abdul Lah Khatib.

"We are pleased that we have the opportunity not only of offering passengers premium travel to Jordan, but of bringing the people here to Jordan, for business as well as tourism," Mr. Watson said. "I'm sure that our efforts are helping Jordan's tourism industry as well as establishing Amman as the business centre in the area."

Mr. Khatib said the decision by the BA to expand its facilities in Jordan was a reflection of the increasing interest of the international community in the tourism

potential that the Kingdom offers.

In comments to the Jordan Times after the formal ceremony where he also named Hasweth Corporation as BA's general sales agent in Jordan, Mr. Watson said the carrier was not looking for "mass tourism" and was instead focusing on "tourists who are selective, who want good value and services for money and who can afford to pay well."

According to Mr. Watson, BA will be bringing in tourists who want to use four and five-star hotels and all accompanying services such as well-organised trips to areas of touristic interest "in an atmosphere of relaxation and comfort."

In this context, Mr. Watson, who drove around Jordan and visited Petra since his arrival two days ago, paid tribute to the state of stability and security in Jordan.

"If you drive around a country for some time, you get a feel of the country, and the feeling I get in Jordan is very comfortable," said Mr. Watson, adding that he was impressed by the state of security — as reflected in the very absence of police points and security checks — as opposed to some other countries in the region.

"When peace comes to a

region, it attracts the attention of people around the world," noted Mr. Watson.

He said a tourism awareness drive was needed to translate the interests into actual visits, and that British Airways was doing what it could to complement Jordan's own efforts to market itself and what it could offer to tourists in terms of tourist attractions and services.

In the same vein, while Jordan does suffer from a shortage of hotel rooms, "what is available here is good quality and offer good services," he said.

Joint packages combining Jordan, Egypt and Israel are among the projects under consideration by BA, he said, noting that many tourists would like to take the best advantage of being in a particularly country by taking in nearby places of interest also in their tour.

British Airways resumed its Amman flights in December after a five-year hiatus.

It started with two weekly flights and then increased it to four.

Mr. Watson said, "I feel sure that our potential will be fully realised and I'm confident that British Airways will be offering a daily service to London before too long."

## UNRWA employees to stage sit-in to protest dismissal of colleague

By Ghaila Alul  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — UNRWA employees will stage a sit-in Monday in front of the agency's headquarters in protest against the dismissal of the dean of the Educational Sciences Faculty, Izzeddin Manasrah.

The sit-in, which is to take place at 2:00 p.m., is organised by the UNRWA teachers executive committee, general services committee, labour committee, general presidency in Amman and the student council at the faculty. The organisers described the decision as "arbitrary."

The sit-in will be the latest in a series of protests in which the refugee camp representatives, labour committees and UNRWA workers have expressed their rejection of Dr. Manasrah's dismissal. The dean was dismissed for publicly protesting against the closure of the sciences faculty.

In a letter to UNRWA Commissioner General Izzeddin Turkmen, refugee camp representatives urged him to reverse what they called the "harsh and unjust" decision to dismiss the dean.

They added that UNRWA's decision was a "violation of human rights," and a contradiction of the agency's adherence to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that guarantees the freedom of expression.

Dr. Manasrah's dismissal also outraged the student council, which said in its letter of protest, made available to the Jordan Times, that the decision was "insensitive to the students' feelings."

In the letter, the students said that they saw the decision as a warning to students and UNRWA workers that releasing any information on agency's activities "which threatens the future of Palestinian refugees" would be punishable.

Dr. Manasrah was dismissed last Tuesday for publicly protesting against UNRWA's decision to close down the faculty.

The director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan El-J. Saf said in a letter sent to the dean and made available to the Jordan Times that Dr. Manasrah was dismissed in accordance with an internal UNRWA staff regulation as of Sept. 5.

Dr. Manasrah had criticised what he called UNRWA's "faulty political decision" to shut down the faculty in two articles published in Al-Rai newspaper. He was consequently summoned by the agency for questioning over his protests and was warned that talking to the press constituted a violation of the agency's staff rules and regulations.

But the dean reported the meeting to the Jordan Times and reiterated his protest against the closure of the faculty which UNRWA later postponed for one year after consultations with the government and Palestine National Authority.

UNRWA employees were dismayed with what they called UNRWA's "unjustified reduction of services," it offers to Palestinian refugees.

UNRWA labour committees, which represent 6,000 UNRWA employees, have postponed a strike originally scheduled for Sept. 4 pending talks with Mr. Turkmen.

"If the results of the talks are positive, we will cancel the strike, if not, we will go on strike Sept. 18," Mohammed Muheisen, president of the Local Employees Union at UNRWA, told the Jordan Times last Sunday.

The strike, which was planned by the union, was to press demands for better health, education and social services as well as improved terms for end-of-service compensations and salary increases compatible with the rising cost of living.

Dr. Manasrah's dismissal was intentional and arbitrary," the source said.

Monday's sit-in will escalate the tension between UNRWA and its workers ahead of Mr. Turkmen's visit to Jordan on Sept. 15.

## IAF criticises court order summoning deputy

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) Saturday criticised a recent court order calling Parliament Deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant to court on charges of disrupting the peace on Oct. 28 following a Friday prayer.

Mohammad Oweidah, assistant secretary general of the IAF, the largest opposition party, criticised orders of a south Amman court which is trying 24 people accused of disrupting the peace following the October 28 Friday prayer.

Dr. Oweidah said that Deputy Abu Zant's name was mentioned as a suspect

last week at the court hearing.

According to Dr. Oweidah, Deputy Abu Zant was attacked after prayers in October and was mentioned in court as a witness at first, "but we were surprised to learn that he became a suspect during court hearings."

After the incident in Abu Huraira Mosque in Jabal Al Akhdar in which the Sheikh was injured, police apprehended 24 people and charged them with physically assaulting Deputy Abu Zant," Dr. Oweidah told the Jordan Times Saturday.

A few weeks later, he added, "the 24 (accused) along with Sheikh Abu Zant were charged with attacking security officers at the mosque."

According to the Constitution, deputies are immune from having to appear in court unless Parliament lifts their immunity.

Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Saad Hayel Sour, last week told journalists that the House had not received any request to lift Sheikh Abu Zant's immunity.

The Sheikh had been treated at King Hussein Medical Centre for minor injuries after the incident.

Government officials then said that the deputy was hurt in clashes inside the mosque during Friday's prayers.

The IAF is objecting to the court order to arrest Sheikh Abu Zant who enjoys

immunity," Dr. Oweidah maintained.

The Sheikh's immunity ends after the conclusion of the current extraordinary session of Parliament expected to conclude this month.

Deputy Abu Zant was involved in a few other parliamentary disputes including one on Jan. 25 with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi. The argument arose when Sheikh Abu Zant demanded that the minister provide the House with a full list of names of mosque preachers, dates of their appointments and the names of all retired preachers.

Deputy Abu Zant accused the minister of using improper terms, ignorance



Abdul Munem Abu Zant

of basic Arabic and lacking knowledge of his ministry's internal status. The deputy who is currently visiting Iraq, is expected to return to Jordan in the next few days, Dr. Oweidah said.

## Jordan opens Flanders international exhibition

GHEENT, Belgium (Petra) — Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein Sharif Jamil Ben Nasser and Prince Philip of Belgium Saturday opened the Flanders International exhibition in which Jordan is participating as a guest of honour.

Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb delivered Jordan's address expressing the Kingdom's pride at being the guest of honour at the event which marks the exhibition's 50th anniversary.

Noting that Jordan maintains strong ties with Belgium and all Western European countries, the minister said the Kingdom's participation coincides with current Jordanian efforts in cooperation with Europe to build a permanent and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Expressing hope that the

Jordanian participation in the exhibition will help further promote economic cooperation with Europe, Mr. Abul Ragheb said that the event comes at a time when Jordan is pursuing negotiations with the European Union to conclude a new economic cooperation agreement with the community.

The audience later watched Jordanian folklore performances presented by the Royal Jordanian Folklore Troupe to the tunes of the Jordan Armed Forces brass band.

The Jordanian wing displays industrial products plus phosphates, potash and chemical fertilisers, food products, Dead Sea salts and pharmaceuticals as well as electronic and electrical appliances.

The display also includes samples of fresh Jordanian

produce and items depicting Jordan's archaeological sites and leaflets and posters about the Kingdom's tourist and historical attractions as well as traditional handicrafts and a collection of paintings by Jordanian artists.

The Jordanian delegation accompanying Mr. Abul Ragheb will organise an economic seminar to orient the European businessmen on investment opportunities in the Kingdom and to prepare the ground for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference due in Amman next month.

Earlier Mr. Abul Ragheb held meetings with the Belgian minister of industry and trade and delivered to him a message from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, dealing with the MENA conference.

## Ministry promises support to library association

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, Minister of Culture Samir Habashneh Saturday opened a two-day conference by the Jordan Library Association (JLA) with the participation of librarians from Jordan, Palestine and Iraq.

Mr. Habashneh praised the JLA's efforts in promoting library services in Jordan and noted that the Ministry of Culture was planning to support the JLA morally and materially in order to help it achieve its objectives.

Mr. Habashneh requested that the JLA pursue the

implementation of its previous conferences saying that they contribute to encouraging the work of libraries in promoting good reading habits.

Recently the Ministry of Culture has endorsed a plan to create public libraries in the governorates of Jordan under the direct supervision of the ministry, said the minister who added that the move is aimed at promoting the cultural movement in Jordan.

JLA President Yousef Qandeel voiced the association's appreciation of the ministry's support for its

endeavours

The participants are to review working papers dealing with school libraries and their role in encouraging reading among students, the general situation at Jordan's public libraries, the university libraries and their development and the importance of the right information to decision makers and researchers.

Several ministry officials were present at the opening session held at the Engineering Faculty of the University of Jordan.

## New industrial estates to go up around country

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) has acquired land in Ma'an, Tafleeh, Karak and Salt with plans for the establishment of new industrial cities, according to a JIEC report released Saturday.

Jordan already has two industrial cities, one in Sahab near Amman and one

near Irbid.

Studies are under way for the commencement of work on these new industrial cities after demand grew for more factories to be built, the report stated.

There is special concern that these factories are built in zones far away from residential areas, the report added.

The Sahab Industrial City, which was set up in 1984, now has 425 factories. The Al Hassan Industrial City, set up in 1991 in Irbid, has 50 factories, according to the report.

The JIEC usually lays infrastructure and civil works for industrial zones before factories start operating.

In reference to last year's developments, the report said that 11 new factories started operations at the Sahab Industrial City in 1994 with a total capital of JD 5.5 million, and created 200 new jobs.

Factories at Sahab produce medicines, veterinary medicine, wooden and metal furniture, home and electronic

appliances, chemicals and dairy products.

Al Hassan Industrial City has a total capital of JD 43 million and employs 1000 workers. Factories there produce chemicals, confectionaries and electric bulbs, according to the report.

Last month the JIEC said it was expanding the Al Hassan Industrial City.

## Syrian team to arrive for trade talks

DAMASCUS (Petra) — A Syrian economic delegation led by the president of the Damascus Chamber of Commerce, Rafeh Shallah, is expected to arrive in Amman on Sept. 20 on a several-day visit for talks with Jordanian economists and businessmen on bilateral cooperation in trade and economic fields.

Dr. Shallah said in a state-

ment Saturday that the visit aims at increasing the volume of trade between Jordan and Syria and exploring the prospects of launching joint ventures.

He said the delegation will attend the Arab Investments and Food Security conference due to be held in Amman later this month and as well as the exhibition to be held on the sidelines.



A bedouin woman takes her class in literacy. Jordan has been working to eradicate illiteracy by the year 2000 (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FILM

"Seven Days in May" at the American Centre on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

### DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '95 ACTIVITIES

#### FILM

"Henry Moore," at 5:00 p.m.

#### CONCERT

"Concert by Faculty X Bamd (performing Jazz, Latin, and Fusion) at 7:30 p.m.

#### EXHIBITIONS

"Works of graphic art by several artists and students at the South Gallery.

"Photography of Jordan, 'Elements in Harmony' by Hala Hodeib at the Blue House.

"Display of painted stone and steel, 'Embargo Art' by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House.

"Early Morning Scribbles" by Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and "Late Night Scribbles" by Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Ali Bermamet.

"Open Air Sculpture workshop.

"Ceramic shop at the Lower Garden.

"Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Central Gallery.

"3-D experiments in calligraphy by Usama Khalidi at Library.

#### EXHIBITIONS

"Abstract art by Iraqi artist Faris 'Ashour at the

Royal Cultural Centre.

"Photographs on Jordan entitled 'Jordan, One of a Kind' by Paula Williams-Brown and illustrations and water colours by Jordanian artist Ramzi El-Sayyed at The Gallery, main lobby of Jordan InterContinental Hotel, 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. except Fridays).

"Arabic calligraphy at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

"Works by Mohammad Ali Shakir at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

"Paintings by Palestinian artist Samira Badran at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman.

"Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.



## Powell calls for 3rd U.S. party

NEW YORK (R) — General Colin Powell, who has America guessing if, when and how he will run for president, says the time may be right to create a third major political party, according to an excerpt from his autobiography. To be published Sunday in Time magazine.

But the retired general, in the 8,000-word excerpt from My American Journey to be published Sunday in Time magazine, refuses to say whether he would lead such a movement or whether he will run for president either as an independent or as a Republican. He added that to be a successful politician requires "a calling I do not yet hear."

Declaring that he was troubled by the extreme right which thinks that "God has a legislative agenda" and by

"patronising liberals" who ignore what is good for society, the first black to become the nation's top soldier makes the case for creating a new political party — one that would represent the centre.

"I distrust rigid ideology from any direction and I am discovering that many Americans feel just as I do. The time may be at hand for a third major party to emerge to represent this sensible centre of the American political spectrum," said Gen. Powell, who helped lead the Gulf War against Iraq.

He said he would only enter the presidential race "because I believed I could do a better job than the other candidates of solving the nation's problems...I would certainly not run simply

because I saw myself as the 'great black hope,' providing a role model for African-Americans or a symbol to whites of racism overcome."

In a separate interview with Time accompanying the excerpts, the 58-year-old career soldier said he will not decide whether to run until his book tour ends in late October. He also does not rule out vying for the Republican nomination, saying the party is more moderate than one would expect "just from listening to the ordinary rhetoric."

"The book tour is sort of a coming-out party for me. For the last two years, I've done no interviews, no television and people are wondering what...Colin Powell stands for. Well, they are about to find out as I deal with the various issues out

there and I become a public figure again," he said.

He said if he decided to run as a Republican he would have to announce his decision in November to qualify for primaries and would have more time if he ran as an independent.

Gen. Powell added: "I can't just keep this up forever. I've got to get on with it...I am certainly more moderate in my views than most of the more active Republicans and the activist Republican groups that are out there right now fighting for the heart and soul of the Republican Party."

In his book, Gen. Powell describes himself as a "fiscal conservative with a social conscience. Neither of the major parties, however, fits me comfortably in its present state."

## India renews talks with kidnappers

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Indian officials said Saturday they had resumed talks with Kashmir guerrillas holding four Westerners hostage and acknowledged they were discussing the militants' demands as a new deadline neared.

"The authorities were able to establish contact last evening through intermediaries," K.B. Jandial, spokesman for the government of Jammu and Kashmir state, told reporters. "The hostages were reported to be safe."

He added: "We are hopeful of pursuing the contact. There is likelihood that there will be contact again this evening, tomorrow morning and tomorrow evening. We

have no plans for a military operation."

Al-Faran guerrillas had set Saturday evening as a new deadline, threatening to kill the captive tourists unless India released an undisclosed number of jailed militants.

When the captors issued the fourth deadline in the two-month ordeal Friday, no time was set for carrying out their death threat.

Asked if India would agree to Al-Faran's demands, Mr. Jandial said: "Sorry, I can't comment about it. This is a subject matter of the talks."

India has refused to free three Pakistanis wanted by the captors, but said some Kashmiri separatists could be released.

American Donald Hutchings, German Dirk Hasert and Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells were kidnapped by the previously unknown Al-Faran group in early July while trekking in the Himalayan Mountains.

Last month the group beheaded a fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans Christian Ostro, and threatened to murder the others unless India released 15 jailed militants.

A Western expert who asked not to be identified said the outlook for the hostages had improved, but Mr. Jandial said the government was still concerned over the new deadline as it followed a four-day gap in communication.

## Dole, Gramm vie for votes of Christian Coalition

WASHINGTON (R) — Leading candidates for the 1996 Republican U.S. Presidential nomination vied Friday for the support of the powerful Christian Coalition with strong right-wing appeals and fierce anti-abortion rhetoric.

Texas Senator Phil Gramm was the first of seven Republican presidential aspirants to address the annual convention of the group which claims 1.7 million members and is a crucial force in Republican politics.

Sen. Gramm also laid a trap for Senate Republican leader Bob Dole, the leading candidate for the Republican nomination next year who followed Sen. Gramm to the lectern a few hours later.

Sen. Gramm challenged Sen. Dole to sign a pledge not to tinker with a section of the Republican Party platform stating a determination to repeal the legal right to an abortion. Some Republican moderates would like to get rid of the anti-abortion clause in the platform.

"I believe that all human beings were made in the image of God and if there is a divine spark in every human life I will fight for that life," Sen. Gramm said.

When Sen. Dole appeared, he was greeted by cries from the audience of "sign the pledge, sign the pledge," he responded: "Don't look at pledges, look at the record, folks."

Sen. Dole vowed to "protect the sanctity of all human life" but made his life as a war hero and veteran a public servant the centerpiece of his speech. It's not the speeches we make. It's the record," he said.

Republican presidential candidates are frantically courting the votes of Evangelical Christians voters. But coalition executive director Ralph Reed said the organization would not be bought by any single candidate or party.

"The question, as we head for 1996, is not who we endorse. The question is who will endorse our agenda," Mr. Reed told the overflowed audience that packed a huge Washington ballroom.

He said delegates had not come to Washington to be courted or to anoint a candidate. "We seek to do more than just elect a president. We seek to heal a nation," he said.

The coalition's agenda includes restricting and eventually banning abortion, restoring the right to pray in schools, putting religious schools on an equal financial footing and restoring what supporters call "traditional family values."

Abortion rights and groups advocating rights for homosexuals issued statements Friday blasting the coalition for what they said was an attempt to impose their morality on other people via politics.



Residents attempt to salvage an engine following flashfloods caused by torrents of water and mud near the Allah River. At least 46 people have died after the crater lake on Parker volcano collapsed due to heavy rains in the Philippines (AFP photo)

## Filipino volcanic flood toll hits 46

T'BOI, Philippines (R) — Raging floods which roared out from a volcanic landslide in the southern Philippines have killed 46 people and scores more are feared buried under an avalanche of mud, officials said Saturday.

Dad Tuan, mayor of T'boli village near Mount Parker, told reporters the number of dead had risen overnight to 46 from 41 after rescue teams scouring the village recovered the remains of five others swamped by the floods.

A landslide in Mount Parker's crater Wednesday night triggered the massive floods which swept down the mountain on the southern edge of Mindanao Island.

Survivors who scrambled to safety ahead of a wall of water up to six metres high said Friday the floods crushed villagers in their houses and buried them

under several feet of mud.

The floods caused more than 400 million pesos (\$15.5 million) in damage to rice, corn and coconut farms in the area, Hilario De Pedro, the governor of South Cotabato province, told reporters in a briefing late Friday.

Mr. Tuan said many of the more than 500 people originally reported missing have been accounted for, but several dozen others may never be found under the mud.

The hamlet of New Dumasag, the worst-hit in T'boli, was flattened. More than half the wood and palm-thatch homes in the community of more than 5,000 people were smashed by boulders and lumber brought on by rampaging floods Wednesday night.

Volcanologists said they were still trying to establish the cause of the landslide into Lake Maughan, which

lies at a height of 1,000 metres in Parker's two-kilometre wide crater. Parker is 1,800 metres high.

Scientists with the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said Parker could be extremely dangerous if it erupts.

They said Parker's structure resembles that of Pinatubo volcano, north of Manila, which exploded in 1991 and killed nearly 1,000 people in one of the century's biggest volcanic eruptions. Parker last erupted in 1640, the scientists said.

Pinatubo is still wreaking havoc in several provinces in the northern Philippines. Whenever there is heavy rain, it washes down tonnes of volcanic debris in the form of devastating mudflows called lahar which have buried entire villages in the area.

## Jackson, sister Janet win MTV award

NEW YORK (AP) — Host Dennis Miller was bleeped twice during his monologue, and Madonna used the F-word. Michael Jackson sang, danced and grabbed his crotch. Tom Petty took a pot shot at his hosts. It was a typical night at the 12th annual MTV video music awards, where bizarre and raunchy antics have become a staple of the show. Petty captured the first award — best male video — for his "You Don't Know How It Feels" clip. In his acceptance speech, he noted that MTV had scrambled his lyric, "let's roll another joint." "I want to thank MTV, even though there was one word I never could understand," Petty said. He was followed by British popstar Seal, whose Kiss From A Rose won best video from a film. Jackson and sister Janet, nominated for 11 awards, won the best dance video for their black and white sci-fi Scream from Michael's HIStory record. The pair had the most nominations of any artist. Jackson kicked off the show with a 15-minute greatest hits medley that ran from Billie Jean through the current You Are Not Alone. He changed costumes three times, sharing the stage at times with a children's choir, a troupe of dancing mobsters, and guitarist Slash.

## Observation post to track China's lake monster

BEIJING (AFP) — The mystery of China's "Lake Tianchi monster" may soon be solved following construction of an observation post to try to identify the creature. The post, installed jointly by the Lake Monster Research Society and a local television station, will be manned by experienced photographers, said the China Daily. The monster of Lake Tianchi in the Changbai Mountains, Jilin province, northeast China, has been seen dozens of times by local people and tourists since the end of the 19th century. But like the legendary Loch Ness beast in Scotland no-one has been able to firmly identify it. The most recent sighting was by Beijing and Taiwanese tourists who reported seeing its head above water on July 14. Last year it was spotted three times. Witnesses variously described it looking like a dinosaur, a giant buffalo or a huge iron pot. The Lake Monster Research Society has offered 10,000 yuan (\$1,500) to anyone who succeeds in photographing the monster.

## Anti-abortion activist gets 20 years in jail

PORTLAND, Oregon (AFP) — An anti-abortion activist convicted of setting fire to eight clinics where abortions were practiced was sentenced to 20 years in prison. Rachelle "Shelley" Shannon did not appear for her sentencing; she is currently in jail for the August 1993 shooting of a doctor who performed abortions in Wichita, Kansas. The physician was wounded. Ms. Shannon will serve the 20-year term once she completes her first sentence.

## Philippines lifts ban on nude Streep in Bridges

MANILA (AFP) — A committee headed by a senior aide to President Fidel Ramos has overturned a Philippine censor's ban on The Bridges of Madison County which hinged on a brief scene of a nude Meryl Streep. The Oversight Committee, headed by Assistant Executive Secretary Renato Corona, ruled that distributor Warner Brothers Inc. could let adults over 18 see the five-second scene of a nude Streep looking at herself in a mirror. It gave no explanation for its ruling, which followed the appointment of a new head of the National Film Censorship Board.

## U.S. first lady visits centre for homeless children in Mongolia

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (AP) — American first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visited a centre for homeless children where, in a poignant moment, a group of cheery faced youngsters sang, When You're Happy And You Know It, Clap Your Hands.

The few dozen well-scrubbed youths who are cared for at the Centre for Street Children are, indeed, the lucky ones. In Mongolia's two main urban centres, there are an estimated 4,000 homeless kids.

"I remember singing that," Mrs. Clinton, wife of U.S. President Clinton, told the children, but never as well as you just did.

The first lady visited the centre as a good will ambassador, concluding a six-day trip that took her to an international Women's Conference in Beijing and then to this sparsely populated nation squeezed between China and Russia.

Her primary mission here

was to offer encouragement to democratic and economic reforms Mongolia has adopted since breaking away from the Soviet Union in 1990. With the loss of Moscow's support, Mongolia has suffered severe economic problems but has not strayed from the path of democracy.

Mrs. Clinton brought \$3.5 million in energy assistance to help keep Ulan Bator's aging heating plant running during the frigid winter. She also announced \$1 million in medical aid for children.

Overall, the trip showcased Mrs. Clinton as a crusader for women and children, a role the White House believes more Americans prefer for her than as a major policy player. The focus on the family and traditional values also is a major theme of President Clinton's re-election campaign.

At the homeless centre, Mrs. Clinton asked a nurse about the biggest health needs of the children. She

was told that many of them have skin diseases from parasites and a lack of bathing. They also suffer from pneumonia and other respiratory problems. Kidney disease is common.

Officials told Mrs. Clinton that Mongolia does not have the expertise or resources to adequately deal with homeless children. The centre tries to reconnect kids with their parents and to give them vocational skills.

"You should know this is a problem not only in Mongolia but throughout the world... Including in my own country," Mrs. Clinton said.

She took note of recent comments here by the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader, and a revered figure in Mongolia. He raised the problem of homeless children and reminded Mongol businessmen, busy making money, that everyone has a responsibility to take care of the nation's children.

## China tells U.S. to act to improve ties

BEIJING (R) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin has told former U.S. President George Bush that Washington must take action to improve troubled Sino-U.S. relations, saying words are not enough, the People's Daily reported Saturday.

"We have noticed that recently the United States reiterated that the U.S. government will continue to follow the 'one China' policy... And oppose Taiwan independence and oppose Taiwan entering the United Nations," it quoted Mr. Jiang as saying in a meeting late Friday with Mr. Bush, a former ambassador to China.

"China pays great attention to these statements by the U.S. side but only spoken assurances are not enough," he said.

After Washington enraged Beijing by allowing a landmark private visit by President Lee Teng-hui of rival Taiwan to the United States last June, relations between the two countries have plunged to their lowest point since they were established 16 years ago.

"We ask the U.S. government to adopt concrete and effective measures to elimi-

nate the serious consequences arising from Lee Teng-hui's visit to the United States and avoid future big ups and downs in Sino-U.S. relations," Jiang said.

China has viewed Taiwan as a rebel province since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949 and does not believe it has the right to independent foreign relations.

Beijing's Communist rulers and Taiwan's Nationalist government both say they want reunification, but on very different terms.

Beijing has been enraged by what it sees as Taiwan's attempt to try to emerge from its international diplomatic isolation.

Beijing has called repeatedly on Washington to take what it calls concrete steps to improve ties, but has not said specified outright what it wants the United States to do.

However, diplomats have said China wants an open commitment from Washington that it will not allow future visits by Taiwan officials, even in a private capacity. The United States is unlikely to give such a commitment, they say.

U.S. Under-Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff visited

China on a fence-mending trip last month and while the two sides failed to bridge differences over the Taiwan issue, they did agree to prepare for possible meetings of their two presidents.

A meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, agreed during Mr. Tarnoff's visit and due to take place at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in late September, would "prove useful," China's Foreign Ministry spokesman has said.

However, China must have been disappointed by the visit this week by U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to address the United Nations fourth World Women's Conference that Beijing thought would help to guarantee the success of the first major international gathering held in China, diplomats said.

She attacked host China, telling a plenary session of the conference that Beijing's restrictions on women at a parallel grassroots Forum were "indefensible" and criticising countries that inhibit free assembly.



YORK (AP) — Hong Kong's Miller was bleeped during his monotonous word. Michael Jackson sang, danced and took a pot shot at his 12th annual MTV music awards, where he and his band became a staple of the night. The awards ceremony was held at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Miller, who was bleeped during his monotonous word, sang "I Wanna Be a Star" and "I Wanna Be a Star (Remix)". He also performed "I Wanna Be a Star (Remix)" and "I Wanna Be a Star (Remix)".

bservation post  
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BY AP — The Chinese government has set up a new observation post to track China's lake monster. The post is located in the vicinity of the monster's last sighting. The Chinese government has set up a new observation post to track China's lake monster. The post is located in the vicinity of the monster's last sighting.

A 10-year-old  
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BY AP — A 10-year-old girl has been sentenced to 10 years in jail for her role in a robbery. The girl, who is named [Name], was found guilty of participating in a robbery that took place in [Location]. She was sentenced to 10 years in jail for her role in the crime.

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## Biggest women's gathering closes — with one last security flap

HUAIROU, China (AP) — The world's biggest women's gathering closed with a final security flap as thousands of delegates from 100 countries gathered in Huairou, China, for the closing ceremony of the World Women's NGO Forum.

Thousands of women stood in persistent drizzle to watch Chinese dancers, drummers and lion dancers close the 10-day gathering. But an Australian dance-and-storytelling troupe was briefly blocked by Chinese plainclothes security men from getting onstage to perform a fire dance.

The Chinese objected because the Melbourne-based women's troupe is affiliated with Amnesty International and includes in its stories an account of a Tibetan nun jailed for opposing Chinese rule of the Himalayan region. The incident caused brief confusion as the Australians stood at the foot of the stage and the American emcee, Melissa Bradley, told the crowd, "They were supposed to be on the stage with us but it looks like it's happening? — no, they're being stopped."

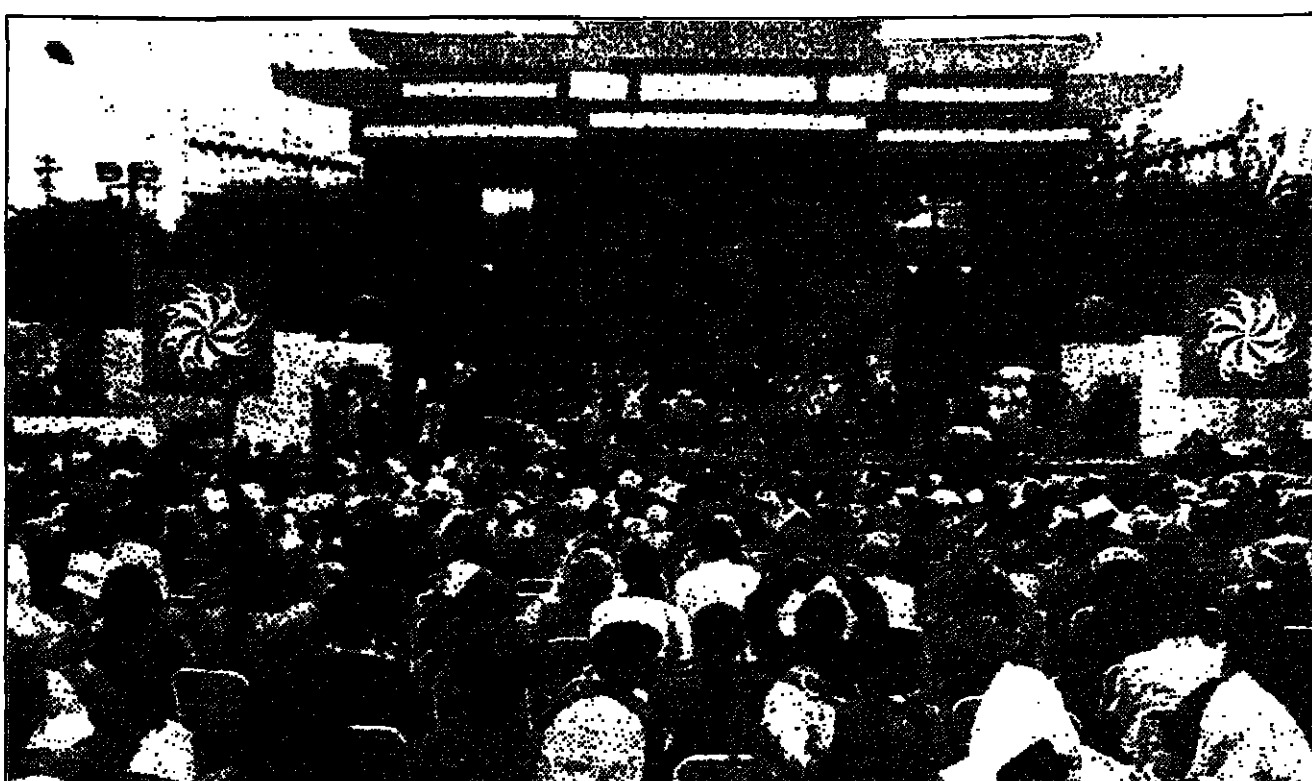
After intervention by the conference's chief organizer, Thailand's Supatra Masdit, the Chinese allowed the Australians to go on — provided they only danced, without telling any stories. Ms. Supatra later told the AP the Chinese had already agreed to let them perform without lyrics, and blamed lower-level officials for the interference. Teenage girls carrying a banner with innocuous slogans also were barred from the stage, witnesses said.

The backstage incident was not apparent to most of the crowd thronging the paved schoolyard that served as the main plaza of the gathering site. Since the start of the non-governmental group's gathering 10 days ago, participants have complained repeatedly about heavy-handed policing at their meeting site, 50 kilometres outside Beijing. The problems did not go unremarked in the closing ceremony. "We all leave here with many lessons to reflect on,"

organiser Supatra said. "Reports of human rights problems... have marred the accomplishments of this gathering." There was applause, though, when she thanked the Chinese government and the people of China — and the ovation swelled when she mentioned the Chinese volunteers who helped to run the conference, and the people of Huairou. After the squalor and clangor of Chinese traditional music, the ceremony turned poignant, with a haunting soprano rendition of Auld Lang Syne.

On the stage, a foreign and a Chinese woman fell into each other's arms weeping. Women hugged, photographed each other, waved and occasionally unfurled a national flag. China has accused Western media of exaggerating the problems participants encountered at Huairou, ranging from muddy fields and half-built structures to lack of transportation to the capital. In her farewell speech to "sisters and friends," the

head of the Chinese organising committee, Huang Qizao, made a pointed reference to the conference slogan, "look at the world through women's eyes." "Look at China... through your own eyes," she said. At a news conference in Beijing, some participants blasted what they called "unacceptable intrusions and interferences" by Chinese authorities. Sunila Abeyasekera of Sri Lanka said a group would collect complaints about harassment and surveillance until the end of the official part of the gathering, the U.N.-sponsored fourth World Conference on Women, on Sept. 15. Many of the women at Huairou are moving to Beijing to lobby the official gathering. The Chinese president of the U.N. Forum, Chen Muhua, complained of "a small number of countries that have, in contradiction of the facts, criticised certain countries," and said it did not bode well for the conference.



Delegates to the World Women's NGO Forum watch the closing ceremony on the outdoor stage at the venue site in Huairou, China (AFP photo)

## Nepal rulers to face no-confidence vote Sunday

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's shaky Communist rulers will face a no-confidence vote Sunday after Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari repudiated an opposition motion from his hospital bed, officials said Saturday.

Mr. Adhikari, whose minority government has little chance of survival, will reply on television or video tape to the no-confidence motion tabled Thursday, parliament officials said. The vote had earlier been scheduled for Saturday. The prime minister won another day to present his case after a bitter fight between lawmakers of his Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) party, who sought extra time by citing Mr. Adhikari's health problems. The prime minister suffered a collar-bone fracture on Aug. 14 in a helicopter accident.

The speaker of the lower house of parliament, Ram Chandra Poudel, had called Friday for a Saturday sitting to vote on Mr. Adhikari's nine-month-old minority government. "The house will meet tomorrow for a reply from the prime minister on the motion and to vote on it," Mr. Poudel told parliament after a session that lasted late into the night and before Mr. Adhikari won the day's reprieve. The 75-year-old Adhikari's efforts to hold fresh elections in November failed after the Supreme Court last month struck down an order from King Birendra which approved Mr. Adhikari's recommendation of the House of Representatives be dissolved.

He made the recommendation in June to pre-empt a proposed no-confidence motion by the two leading opposition parties, the centrist Nepali Congress and the right-wing Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (RPP). Thursday's no-confidence motion was moved by opposition parties who want to form an alternative government without dissolving parliament. They said last June the poor Himalayan nation could not afford another election. UML lawmakers condemned the speaker's move as a conspiracy against Mr. Adhikari, who had asked for six days' time to face parliament. UML deputies cried "fault" and rushed towards Mr. Poudel's chair but were held back by security staff. Doctors attending Mr. Adhikari said he needed rest for three more weeks. Opposition parties, who said they were strong enough to topple Mr. Adhikari, doubted if he would make it to parliament. Analysts say the government, which has 89 seats in the 205-seat assembly, is

sure to be defeated on the motion, proposed by the two major opposition parties which have 106 members between them. The house now has 202 sitting members. Communist lawmakers held up parliament with noisy protests Thursday and delayed putting forward the no-confidence motion by about five hours. They formed a human wall in front of the speaker's chair and upturned the podium where Sher Bahadur Deuba, the leader of the opposition, was presenting the motion. The Communists said parliament rules stipulate that the prime minister should be present to hear a no-confidence motion. But opposition lawmakers maintained business must not be interrupted and a cabinet minister could be named to stand in for the prime minister.

Korea a new "friendship treaty" instead. Moscow's decision to annul the treaty is expected to further strain relations with North Korea, but improve ties with capitalist South Korea. South Korea immediately hailed Russia's decision. "We welcome the liquidation of the military alliance

... as a remnant of the cold war," Suh Dae-Won, spokesman for the South Korean Foreign Ministry, said Thursday. The treaty requires Moscow to provide military assistance to Pyongyang in the event of war. It has been renewed automatically every five years but might be revised or canceled by one side one year before the regular expiration date. Mr. Matkovsky said the treaty "has become outdated and does not correspond to new realities in Russia, in Russian-Korean relations and in North East Asia."

The Soviet Union supported Pyongyang in the 1950-53 Korean War.

## Mexican talks march on after breakthrough

SAN ANDRES LARRAINZAR, Mexico (R) — Peace talks between the government and Maya Indian rebels in Mexico's southern state of Chiapas broke through a five-month deadlock and took a big step forward Friday. The two sides agreed to 42 of a proposed 49 points on a broad agenda for the peace process and government officials said they were close to fixing a date for detailed negotiations on indigenous rights, democratic and judicial reforms and steps to boost Chiapas' long-neglected Indian communities.

Rebel leader Comandante David told reporters "significant advances" were made during Friday's marathon session and that the talks would continue for a fifth straight day Saturday. A new air of optimism swirled around this poor highlands town after five months of frustration and often bitter exchanges between guerrilla chiefs of the Zapatista National Liberation Army and Interior Ministry negotiators. The breakthrough was made after the Zapatistas Thursday accepted in principle an offer to take part in separate, all-party talks on national democratic reforms. Although details of the proposal have yet to be worked out, it keeps alive the rebels' declared goal of winning reforms on a national level and is consistent with the government's position that it would not negotiate such reforms with the Zapatistas alone. Under the new scenario, peace talks here will focus on addressing the root causes of the 20-month-old rebellion while the Zapatistas will play a part in the parallel efforts to clean up Mexico's electoral system and cut the power of the long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party.



A demonstrator throws a Molotov cocktail at police at Faan, near the Papeete Airport during violent clashes following the resumption of French nuclear testing in the South Pacific (AFP photo)

## Amid looting and destruction, Caribbean islanders rebuild

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (R) — Tourists settled back into their Caribbean vacations Friday as hurricane Luis churned off to sea, but islanders worked to ward off looters and rebuild their shattered lives. Luis slammed into several tiny islands of the northeastern Caribbean Tuesday, killing at least 15 people and causing hundreds of millions of dollars in damage. But the storm steered away from the region's largest islands — Puerto Rico, Hispaniola and Cuba — and appeared by Friday nearly certain to avoid the United States as it moved into the open Atlantic. At 5:00 p.m. EDT (2000 GMT), tropical storm warn-

ings were in effect for Bermuda, the British colony that lies hundreds of kilometres east of the United States in the central Atlantic, although forecasters at the National Hurricane Centre said they did not expect Luis to strike there. Luis's centre was about 725 kilometres southwest of Bermuda and moving north-northwest near 14 mph (22 kph). Forecasters said they expected the storm to turn toward the north. That path would take it over cooler water, weakening it and reducing its threat to land. The storm still carried sustained winds near 120 mph (195 kph), making it a strong Category III hurricane.

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## Russia to annul military treaty with N. Korea

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia has announced it will scrap a treaty with North Korea binding Moscow to military intervention in case the hard-line Communist state comes under attack. Foreign Ministry spokesman Nikita Matkovsky called the 1961 agreement outdated and said that Russia is offering North

Korea a new "friendship treaty" instead. Moscow's decision to annul the treaty is expected to further strain relations with North Korea, but improve ties with capitalist South Korea. South Korea immediately hailed Russia's decision. "We welcome the liquidation of the military alliance

... as a remnant of the cold war," Suh Dae-Won, spokesman for the South Korean Foreign Ministry, said Thursday. The treaty requires Moscow to provide military assistance to Pyongyang in the event of war. It has been renewed automatically every five years but might be revised or canceled by one side one year before the regular expiration date.

Mr. Matkovsky said the treaty "has become outdated and does not correspond to new realities in Russia, in Russian-Korean relations and in North East Asia."

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QUALIFICATION :	TECHNICAL DIPLOMA AFTER SCHOOL FINAL.
POSITION :	TECHNICIAN : INSTRUMENT, ELECTRICAL, CIVIL, CHEMICAL, MECHANICAL, INSPECTION, QUALITY CONTROL.
EXPERIENCE :	2 TO 4 YEARS RELATED EXPERIENCE.
CATEGORY F MID-LEVEL STAFF NON-TECHNICAL	
I QUALIFICATION :	DIPLOMA AFTER SCHOOL FINAL.
POSITION :	PERSONAL ASSISTANT, STORES, MATERIALS, ACCOUNTS, ASSISTANT : ADMINISTRATION, PERSONNEL, TIME OFFICE, MATERIAL HANDLING.
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## Torture breeds violence

A RECENT poll taken by the Israeli daily Yediot Ahronot made a shocking revelation about Israeli public opinion on the question of resorting to torture while interrogating Palestinians suspected of involvement in "terrorist" acts. More than 60 per cent of Israelis interviewed supported the proposition that Shin Beit, the Israeli state security agency, be given a "freer" hand in conducting such interrogations. It will be recalled that Shin Beit has the authority since 1987 to use "moderate physical coercion" against suspects, but this restricted resort to force is expected to be further relaxed in favour of a higher dose of mistreatment of detainees in the wake of the suicide bomb attacks that were launched against Israeli targets by members of Hamas or Islamic Jihad recently.

We see two major problems with the new Israeli policy on this score.

The first is Israel's treaty obligations under various international human rights instruments especially the Convention Against Torture. It is true that many countries face similar or identical state security problems as Israel and several of them have opted for the easy way out by resorting to torture to extricate confessions from suspects. But the Convention Against Torture was adopted precisely because there was an international consensus that torture and ill-treatment of detainees cannot be justified no matter what reasons lay behind it. Israel is a party to these international norms, and therefore any deviation from their legal obligations would naturally be a subject of close scrutiny and condemnation by the international community.

The second problem is that confessions under duress are seldom useful to preempt violent attacks or to punish culprits. It is a well-known fact that many people succumb to various degrees of pressure and talk, but not all their confessions turn out to be correct. That is why, on balance, the comity of nations had opted to outlaw investigation under duress and ruled that all information obtained through such a method should not and could not be used in a court of law to condemn a suspect.

Surely there are more ingenious and sane ways to deal with terrorism. For one thing, it would be much more effective to preempt violent acts by removing or neutralising the factors that contribute to them. Speedy resolution of the Palestinian problem by advancing the pace of peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) could create the very conditions that would automatically make acts of terrorism less likely. Israeli negotiators are notoriously dragging their feet in their talks with the PNA, and yielding jurisdiction and authority to the Palestinians is taking much longer than it should be. The sooner the Palestinians are allowed their freedoms and granted their rights, the better the prospects will be for ending the cycle of violence in all of Palestine.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday focused attention on the danger inherent in the plastic bags which, according to official reports, caused the loss of JD 12 million worth of sheep that consumed them. Since the reports were published, a series of seminars have been convened to look into this matter and to find solutions to the problem, said columnist Nazzari. According to the reports, plastic sheets are also causing great harm to humans as well as animals, the writer said and called for resolutions and recommendations adopted by these seminars to be translated into action on the ground. Noting that the seminars have defined the source of danger, passed resolutions and recommendations and appealed to the concerned authorities to take action, the writer said that nothing had been done so far to stem the danger which is costing the country a fortune.

A WRITER in Al Dastour voiced support for Hamas' idea of converting itself into a political party, abandoning the military option to secure an end to the occupation. Saleh Qallab called on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to welcome such a development, to free all Hamas members from detention and allow the new party to exercise its right as one of the opposition groups in the ranks of the Palestinian people. Whether they call themselves Hamas or Muslim Brotherhood, — which is their mother movement — the new political entity should display flexibility regarding the events in the region and adapt to new situations and new realities so as to prove its vitality and dynamism.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# No justification for a joint Wadi Araba airport

IT SEEMS Jordan is about to upgrade and expand Aqaba airport into a regional facility that would serve both Aqaba and Israel's Eilat.

Aqaba airport's present size and capacity is more than sufficient to accommodate the present and future traffic needs to and from Aqaba. Therefore, no justification exists, from a Jordanian point of view, to expand the airport at the cost of \$200 million, as revealed by the director of the Jordanian Civil Aviation Authority, in order to qualify as a regional airport and be renamed "Wadi Araba International Airport," to serve the southern part of Israel, as Eilat airport may be abandoned.

The feasibility study which is being financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will definitely conclude that the project is feasible and should be implemented. The motives are not technical, economical, or financial, but the decision will have a political dimension, simply because it is nice to have a single airport serving two countries that used to be enemies. The airport will be introduced as another symbol of peaceful cooperation and economic and social normalisation of relations between Israel and an Arab state.

From a strictly fiscal point of view, there is no justification to allocate a penny from the budget, which is already in big deficit, nor to borrow the funds from abroad and increase the heavy burden of debt. Jordan is already debt-ridden and overburdened with debt service for 20 years to come. For this project to deserve consideration, a commitment to provide a grant of \$200 million must be secured. Otherwise Jordan does not need to take this unnecessary extra cost which it can do without. As if it is not enough that peace failed to produce any dividends for the Jordanian people are we now being expected to shoulder peace liabilities?

It is not known how the new expanded airport will serve Israel. Would Israel foot the bill and pay the cost of expansion and extra construction and equipment, or will it be a mere user of the facility, paying rent for the building it will occupy and handling and landing fees for the services rendered to its aircraft. In the latter case, we should know how many years will be needed to recover the cost.

If the project really makes sense financially, why shouldn't the private sector be invited to implement it and operate it on commercial basis, after paying for the cost of

the present airport?

From a procedural viewpoint, Wadi Araba airport may be the first airport in the world to serve two independent states. Geneva airport, for instance, is clearly a Swiss airport built on French land on the basis of a long term lease. It is by no means a joint airport. It seems we are about to enter into a new experiment which has no precedent in the history of civil aviation.

It is being claimed that it is not safe to continue operating two airports which are very close to each other, but we wonder how it was possible to operate the two airports safely for many years, when the two sides were not coordinating and not even communicating with each other.

Too many projects are being in circulation. Too few of these are of tangible benefit to the Jordanian people. We are fond of accepting projects even at our own detriment. The important thing is to please and show readiness to move in any direction. Our own national interest does not bother us. We are a people of mission. Prophets are supposed to take sacrifices willingly, not benefits, even when they are crucified or stoned to death. Cost and benefit calculations are not fit for the "large," such as ourselves.

M. KAHIL



# Israeli perspective: U.S.-Jordan friendship confounds Gulf coalition

By Pinhas Inbari

The writer is an Israeli analyst. His article is reprinted without editing from the Jerusalem Post of Sept. 6.

## SYRIAN PRESIDENT

Hafez Assad arrived in Cairo this week, a day after dispatching his vice-president, Abdul Halim Khaddam, to Tehran.

Diplomatic sources cited the keen interest Syria and Egypt have in developments in Iraq after the defection of leading members of President Saddam Hussein's family last month. However, it is the growing importance of Jordan, not Iraq, that is the main concern of President Hosni Mubarak and Mr. Assad.

In Iran, the Islamic Republic News Agency merely said Mr. Khaddam had brought a letter from Mr. Assad for President Hashemi Rafsanjani on "regional developments." As Syria is Iran's main Arab ally and keeps Tehran informed on its inter-Arab diplomacy, that visit was a prelude to the more important Assad-Mubarak meeting.

The Middle East never ceases to produce surprises. Mr. Assad and Mr. Mubarak are now supporting Saddam Hussein, while the U.S. is supporting Jordan. This is the reverse of the Gulf war alliances.

While much remains unknown about the circumstances surrounding the spectacular Aug. 8 defection to Jordan by Hussein Kamel Majid and Saddam Kamel Majid — along with Saddam's daughters and 15 army officers — the political consequences are somewhat clearer: Old inter-Arab tensions have

been revived in the wake of the Gulf crisis, due to economic rather than military-political factors.

Cairo was the key U.S. ally in the aftermath of the Kuwait invasion, helping Washington mobilise the Arab World against Saddam. Yet it feels that as soon as the war ended, the Americans turned their backs on Egypt in favour of promoting the interests of Jordan — one of Saddam's main allies.

Egypt was unpleasantly surprised to discover during preparations for the first regional economic conference in Casablanca last year, that Jordan's interests were in the foreground.

Surprise turned to alarm as Cairo found the U.S. was trying to convince Gulf states to channel money to Amman's banks. This began last summer, when U.S. undersecretary of state Pete Tarnoff visited the Gulf, and it continues today, gaining new impetus from the defections and king Hussein's call for change in Baghdad.

During a visit to Jordan two weeks ago, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa concentrated on the economic conference scheduled for October in Amman. The foreign minister made it clear that Jordan will not have Cairo's support if it intends to exploit the latest developments in Iraq to gain economic benefits at Egypt's expense.

Mr. Musa wanted to pour cold water on

Jordanian ambitions to become the Middle East financial centre — a role Cairo clearly sees as its own.

This has injected a note of caution into Jordanian diplomacy. It is not to be taken for granted that Amman is eager for a speedy rapprochement with the Gulf states.

Jordan is indeed keen to improve relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in particular, but it can do without the dramatic reconciliation the Americans would like to see. Egypt's chagrin over Washington's pro-Jordanian policy is well placed considering U.S. actions to boost Jordan as an economic centre. For example, the Americans forced the Jordanian banking system on the PLO — laying an infrastructure for future Jordanian economic activity in the territories.

If U.S. efforts are successful, the financial support for the Palestinians will be shifted to a path which runs from the Gulf to Amman to the territories.

So what were Washington's motives? The first priority was seen as encouraging King Hussein to finalise and then stabilise the peace treaty with Israel. The ultimate goal seems to be the construction of a three-sided economic framework including Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians, but excluding Egypt.

In this case, Egyptians may well ask themselves why support the Middle East economic conference in Amman next month?

Economics aside, the Jordanian role in recent

developments in Iraq has political ramifications with its neighbours Syria and Saudi Arabia. Two weeks ago, King Hussein made reference to former Hashemite rule in Baghdad.

This elicited an angry, if indirect, response from the Saudis who reiterated their foreign policy stand of strongly opposing any dismantling of Iraq.

Syrians and Saudis harbour suspicions that if Iraq were dismembered, the country's Sunni Muslims might choose to balance the demographic advantages of the Kurds and Shiites by restoring an old "special relationship" with the Sunnis of Jordan.

On this point at least, Saudi Arabia may disagree with other Gulf emirates like Qatar and Oman, and support U.S. endeavours to open a new page with King Hussein for turning his back on his former ally in Baghdad.

The Syrian army is now reported to have deployed along the Iraqi border. This is no reason to assume that Syria is interested in dismembering Iraq. It is more logical to assume Damascus wants to forestall any possibility of the Sunni elite in a post-Saddam Iraq recreating that special relationship with Amman.

One thing is clear — any view that inter-Arab tensions would evaporate after the Gulf war has proved false. The old coalition of Cairo, Damascus and Riyadh remains firm against Amman. But this time, Washington is standing firm with Jordan — not with the former pro-American coalition.

## LETTERS

### Forum promotes Jerusalem cause

To the Editor:

THIS IS a first letter, hopefully to be followed by many more, from (Muntada Bayt Al-Maqdis) the Jerusalem Forum in Amman whose membership represents a broad spectrum of concerned age-long Jerusalemite-Christian and Muslim alike — and their many friends and affiliates in Amman, Jerusalem and throughout the region.

A Christian-Muslim committee has been formed within the Jerusalem Forum and it can rightfully claim ancestry, from its namesake, the illustrious Christian-Muslim Committee, which represented the Palestinian Arab national cause before the Versailles peace conference in 1919 and in a number of subsequent years.

This committee does not purport to represent, nor wish to usurp, any existing legitimate Palestinian institutions, organs or authorities — any more than does its parent, the Jerusalem Forum itself.

To the contrary, it seeks to augment any and all efforts designed to garner support for the sacred cause of preserving the religious and the historical status of Jerusalem as a city that belongs to the adherents of all three monotheistic faiths. Such status has been and continues to be undermined by continual and cataclysmic erosion of its demographic, geographic, cultural and religious landscape over the past three decades, since Israeli forces occupied East Jerusalem and the walled city in 1967.

One of the foremost victims of that occupation has been the very existence and well-being of Jerusalem's age-long and hitherto numerous and prosperous Arab Christian Palestinian community, which at present has dwindled to a mere few thousand. This ancient community has been the anchor and the mainstay of Christianity in Jerusalem and the Holy Land throughout the ages. Their ancestors built, embellished and kept alive such monumental and sacred sites as the Holy Sepulchre, Gethsemane Church, the Church of St. Mary and numerous other churches, holy sites and monasteries throughout the Holy Land which are in danger of closure and confiscation by the Israeli occupation.

And to the profound dismay of the Christian Palestinian Arab community, which has been marginalised and made to feel irrelevant by the world community parts of the Christian world tend to view resurrection and Christian redemption ever increasingly as contingent upon Jewish dominance over Jerusalem and the Holy Land to the exclusion, indeed, the attrition and eventual eradication of its indigenous people, Christian and Muslim alike.

The Israeli people have their own unique agenda for the Holy Land from their own parochial, historical and ideological perspective of which we are fully and chillingly aware. It is in sharp contrast to the ecumenical and universalistic messages of Islam and Christianity which are addressed to humankind in its entirety.

Far from wishing to delve into theological argumentation, out of respect for every religion's articles of faith and message, we firmly believe that beliefs and freedoms must stop at the periphery of other people's faiths and freedoms. That is the essence of peaceful coexistence, of live and let live, of freedom versus monolithic tyranny.

The fate of Jerusalem is scheduled to be negotiated and resolved towards the end of 1996, or early 1997, in the final phase of the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks which are currently underway. The Israeli government and wide sections of the Israeli people in Jerusalem are already engaged in an organised campaign of harassment against the peace-loving Palestinian citizens of Jerusalem, Christian and Muslim alike. The aim seems to be to subvert by violent and unlawful means the outcome of the forthcoming talks on the status of Jerusalem.

The Jerusalem Forum, therefore, finds it important and timely to raise its voice over Jerusalem by communicating to church leaders and other concerned bodies its profound concern over what is happening in Jerusalem at present. Special attention will be focused on the Christian Arab dimension of the cause and, to this end, the following avenues shall be pursued:

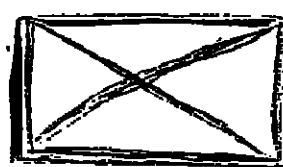
- To activate our Arab community to raise the level of awareness of the world on the urgent issues related to the status and people of Jerusalem both Christians and Muslims through letter writing campaigns to various Western personalities both religious and lay
- Twinning Arab churches with U.S. and other Western churches to develop channels of understanding
- Where possible, contacting the media and particularly religious and other publications with a view to stimulate coverage of the Jerusalem issue in its many facets, and generally improving Western media awareness of Arab Christians and their national identities and rights within the overall Palestinian national rights and existence
- Promotion of media coverage of the plight of Arab Christians and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem

The programme and its goals must evidently be a long-term effort. The letters we propose to send are a first step in a thousand mile journey. But we think it is worth it.

Dr. Musa Hussein, Zarka

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.





# Features

## Security depends on social, economic as well as military factors -- Regent

(Continued from page 1)

"A better definition would include human resources, natural resources including land, and economic and military factors."

"Security can certainly be seen as covering a broad matrix of inter-connected issues such as food, water, energy, technology, finance, transport and communications," said the Regent. It also includes questions of domestic infrastructure as well as questions of foreign policy, employment, housing and services for people.

"A country that is providing for the needs of its people is unlikely to jeopardise its own security and that of its neighbours," the Regent pointed out.

Jordan and Israel did take into consideration these aspects while discussing security and economic cooperation as part of their peace treaty, he said. Both realised that security cannot be confined to Jordan and Israel in a region that is beset with decades of conflict and hostility, "relics of the cold war era," he said.

As such, said the Regent, Israel and Jordan agreed to several regional concepts, and one of it is a "conference on security and cooperation in the Middle East, culminating in a regional zone of security and stability."

The Palestinian territories, Israel and Jordan could be the nucleus of such a regional concept, and "we may begin with this heartland and work outwards, expanding the circle of peace." At the same time, the Middle East could not be confined to such a core, and Iraq, Iran and Turkey are essential components of the region and "should not be kept out of our strategic plans," he said.

Noting the American policy of "dual containment" of Iraq and Iran, the Regent implicitly said that these two countries may not fit in the present U.S. approach to the region in terms of security but then, he said, "the inclusion of Israel in a Middle Eastern security order was not long ago thought possible."

"Unless we devise a system that can involve all regional parties without exclusion in addressing all issues without exception, we will not succeed in guaranteeing security in the Middle East," the Regent stated.

"Certain aspects of regional security must be considered in terms of regional development," the Regent said. "Peace-building is now of the essence and it cannot be a lip-service commitment."

Jordan is realistic on its approach to the future, he said. "We are not seeking charity, but investment in a common future. We call on all of those who have an interest in the Middle East to help us rebuild now, allowing

you that at the heart of our vision must be a notion of security: what it is, who it affects, and how it can be achieved. The first question is to do with the nature of security. In the Middle East as elsewhere, security has traditionally been defined by military criteria. The history of the twentieth century graphically demonstrates how inadequate this definition is. The pursuit of ever more deadly weapons, and the amassing of ever-larger armed forces, has not enhanced regional security. Some 200 billion dollars have been spent on arms in the Middle East this decade. This phenomenal expenditure has fostered only insecurity, as adversaries compete in an ever-escalating spiral, from one crisis to the next.

It is clear that security must be defined in a broader context. A better definition would include human resources, natural resources including land, and economic as well as military factors. Security can certainly be seen as covering a broad matrix of inter-connected issues such as food, water, energy, technology, finance, transport and communications. It includes questions of domestic infrastructure as well as questions of foreign policy. For a country's ability to provide jobs, houses and services for its people can serve as an indicator of its stability. A country that is providing for the needs of its people is unlikely to jeopardise its own security and that of its neighbours.

The manner in which the cold war ended proved beyond doubt that the power of human needs far outweighs that of conventional armies. In looking to the future of the Middle East, those same needs must be addressed if stability is to be assured, security is to be guaranteed, and peace is to prevail. I recall that in 1986, Jordan tried to initiate a development effort to support the people of the occupied territories. The world did not heed our warning that the economic situation there was politically dangerous, and would have far-reaching consequences in terms of security. A year later, the intifada erupted. I would therefore suggest that an interdisciplinary view of security is essential if the Middle East is to enjoy a peaceful and stable future.

Having established the nature of our notion of security, the next question concerns its proper scope. Peace between Jordan and Israel comes within the context of regional transformation. In discussing security and economic cooperation, Jordanian Israeli negotiators both realised that while talk of security could not be confined to Jordan and Israel, there was a lacuna at the regional level. Regional security structures in the Middle East are relics of the cold war era; they were certainly not developed to deal with Arab-Israeli or inter-Arab peace. Indeed, hardly any viable structures of cooperation exist at all.

Both sides therefore agreed to a number of regional concepts in the treaty. These included a commitment to the creation of a conference on security and cooperation in the Middle East, culminating in a regional zone of security and stability; the idea of a partnership in peace; and a commitment to human resource development at the regional level. Such proposals embody the conviction that if peace is to succeed in the long-term, it must provide mechanism which allow all parties without exclusion to discuss all issues without exception. These parts of the treaty therefore call for an inclusive, inter-disciplinary approach, and I believe that it is this above all that must be developed if we are to vouchsafe the future of the region.

The first task must be to define what we mean by "the region." An area which includes Jordan, the PNA and Israel lies at the heart of all notions of the region. This area forms a natural pivot between the eastern Mediterranean, the Red Sea, the Gulf and the hinterland north of the Arabian peninsula. In building a definition of the region and a vision for its future, we may begin with this heartland and work outwards, expanding the circle of peace, to use this conference's terminology. However, in the long term, it will not be possible to confine the Middle East to this core.

Unless a gradual plan is adopted to involve all the countries of a well-defined Middle East, the whole project may be in jeopardy. Iraq, Iran and Turkey are essential components of this region and should not be kept out of our strategic plans. The inclusion of these countries will reduce the over-reliance presently only too evident on the U.S. and its Western allies for the security of the Gulf.

I am aware as I speak that gathered in this room are some of the architects of the "dual containment" of Iraq and Iran. It may seem outlandish to suggest that unless such countries eventually take their places in a regional security order, it will be fatally flawed. It is, however, worth considering that the inclusion of Israel in a Middle Eastern security order was not so long ago thought impossible. Back in 1989, I went out on a limb and said: "The central spine of the Mashreq is contiguous to the non-Arab nations of the European Rim of Asia such as Turkey, Israel and Iran. Jordan's approach will hopefully make these borderlines with other nations a meeting ground of positive interaction

and complementarity rather than war zones of conflict and turmoil." Ladies and gentlemen, the same holds true today. Unless we devise a system that can involve all regional parties without exclusion in addressing all issues without exception, we will not succeed in guaranteeing security in the Middle East.

I said at the outset that it was important to define who and what our notion of security involves, and how it is to be implemented. I have addressed the who and the what; but I now face the rather more daunting question of how.

Jordan has long called for the establishment of a forum along the lines of the CSCE, or OSCE as it is now known. We believe that such a forum could provide low-key institutional procedures to discuss the various and inter-connected topics that bear on regional security and cooperation. A CSCME would provide a focus for a non-military perspective on security. It would help us to develop a common regional vision, founded on common goals and aspirations, and built on structures of inter-connection and mutual aid. We believe that the future of the Middle East depends on such a vision, backed up by appropriate instruments, and we are prepared to do everything possible to help implement it.

Looking ahead, a CSCME might dovetail with existing security structures and fora, giving the region the benefit of the international community's experience and support. There can be no doubt that dialogue within the region, and between the region and the rest of the world, would play a significant part in countering extremism and enhancing the security of all. Jordan, with its proven commitment to peace and stability, its pivotal position in the region, and its experience of these issues, has much to contribute to such a dialogue.

But for the moment, we must ask ourselves what framework can at present promote security and development at the regional level. In February, I discussed a similar theme with thirty members of the Knesset during their visit to Amman. I suggested that the multi-lateral peace talks, the MENA Economic Summit, and the forthcoming launch of the EU-Mediterranean Partnership process in Barcelona were possible components of a framework for regional security.

I would like to go further today by posing a few questions. Can the multilaterals, launched by the Madrid peace process in 1991, evolve into a CSCME? Can the process be launched in Barcelona be integrated with the multilaterals or the proposed CSCME? Or will these eclectic processes represent in

their totality a CSCME? Can the Arms Control and Regional Security (ACRS) working group, still in its infancy, become a suitable forum for considering alternative future Middle Eastern security systems? What is the range of possibilities for such a security system?

I cannot provide the answers, but it is not too early to ask such questions. I hope that this conference might advance some way towards outlining answers that satisfy the concerns of all. For such a security system would help not only to ensure Arab-Israeli peace, but could put in place credible machinery to tackle inter- and intra-state disputes. Such machinery is desperately needed, for the alternative to the Middle East state system—ceaseless Balkan-style ethnic strife—would jeopardise the security of all, both within and beyond our region.

As I have said, security cannot be viewed in purely military terms. Certain aspects of security must be considered in terms of regional development. Peace-building is now of the essence, and it cannot be a lip-service commitment. It is not a question of slogans and photo-opportunities. Our task is to build infrastructure relating to people's needs to address the humanitarian content of the problems of the peace process.

It is our shared responsibility to conquer the fears and satisfy the misgivings of our peoples. We must show them that the sacrifices they have made have not been in vain. We must demonstrate to them the benefits of a new culture of peace and cooperation. For peace must be whole. It must be absolute to be real; it must be just to be lasting; and it must be tangible to be effective. Peace must touch the lives of all, young and old, irrespective of gender, ethnicity or creed. It must influence all circumstances, physical as well as psychological, and remove all barriers, actual as well as imaginary. Its maintenance will be as arduous as its making, and we must not fail the test or abandon the task. Our peoples will not forgive us and history will condemn us if we do.

Peace must be seen to work for everyday men and women. Many Jordanians do not yet feel that they have a real stake in peace. It is true that some in Jordan feel that making peace with Israel was a terrible mistake; indeed, that the very peace process is misconceived. Likewise, there are Israelis and Palestinians who reject the process.

We believe that the doubters will not be silenced by repression but by the tangible benefits of the peace dividend. Those who disagree with the peace must have their say. The politics of

hints, innuendoes and whispers is out of keeping with the culture of peace. A public debate about the implications of peace is on, and it will continue. We call for an informed debate. The opponents of peace must spell out to their public the implications of continued conflict. They must explain the alternative to peace, and what it would mean for all of us. They must make clear that to reject peace is to embrace war, and that war offers no future but fear and death.

We believe that peace will be strengthened by rapid, sustainable, widely-shared economic growth. A partnership entailing joint commitments based on common interests will be central to achieving this goal. Our strategy is to harness a tri-lateral partnership of governments, businesses and international finance.

One of the most positive steps in this direction was the economic summit held last year in Casablanca. The Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit in Amman, which will be held this October, goes one step further. The Amman summit will seek to connect the right business groups with the right projects, outlining specific joint investments. It will discuss trade liberalisation and industrial policy, infrastructure and resource development, investment and financial mechanisms. The proceedings will be strongly business-oriented, and we hope that businesses of all sizes from all over the world will attend. With your involvement, we can ensure that the summit succeeds even before it convenes.

We are also considering mechanisms to institutionalise peace-building and to stimulate trade and investment. We are working on arrangements for a Middle East Development Bank, and a regional body patterned on the OECD. These should not be considered as ends in themselves, but as contributions to comprehensive security.

Our region must tap the global private investment market if reconstruction is to succeed. Lehman Brothers reckon the need for regional infrastructural investments at \$45 billion by the year 2000. We have projects lined up in fields as diverse as tourism, health, industry and export-oriented agriculture. All are viable, and will help to consolidate the peace; but all require investment. This will assist in tackling such legacies of the conflict as debt, although the major role there belongs to governments and financial institutions.

Our domestic priorities are to continue liberalising our political system and our economy. Pluralism, accountability and increased respect for human rights remain the goals of our democratisation process. On the economic side, the EU has described Jordan as the most advanced country of the region in implementing market-friendly reforms. As an emerging market, Jordan has the largest stock exchange in the Arab World, and we are planning a far-reaching privatisation programme. We are developing a progressive, transparent regulatory system while ensuring macro-economic stability. Under new legislation, all foreign investors will be treated on an equal basis, intellectual property rights will be protected, and we guarantee the repatriation of foreign capital and dividends. Our long-term goal is to liberalise and dismantle all barriers in the region, whether in terms of trade, investment, labour, capital or services. We recognise that a non-discriminatory approach must be the cornerstone of a new economic order. In pursuing this goal, we are working to establish specialised economic zones to provide a fully deregulated environment for investment. Such free zones can form the nucleus of inter-regional and intra-regional free trade, investment and growth.

Jordan looks to the future with optimism tempered by realism. We are not seeking charity, but investment in a common future. We call on all those who have an interest in the Middle East to help us rebuild now, allowing us to help ourselves and our neighbours in the future. By this I mean not only finance but creative thinking. The three questions I have posed today about security—who and what it involves, and how it should be achieved—will directly shape the future of the region. In considering how to answer them, you will make an important contribution to that future.

The U.S. can play a vital role in this process by promoting stability on a comprehensive matrix of themes. The issues to do with land and resources, identity and demography, terrorism and weapons of mass destruction are only the most prominent of those that should concern us. The security of the Middle East is not a short-term strategic objective, but a long-term commitment. I want to make it clear that Jordan is committed not only to its peace treaty with Israel, but to a new, inclusive Middle Eastern order of peace and security for all. Its leadership has consistently worked for reconciliation in the region. The penalty for our beliefs has been high at times, but we have always maintained their integrity. I want to leave you with the assurance that we will honour our commitments and hold fast to our vision of a Middle East at peace with itself and with the world outside.

Thank you very much.

### Jordan-Israel agreements to be signed soon

(Continued from page 1)

Kalandia as a Palestinian airport. Jordanian citizens are not allowed to sell lands or other real estate in Arab Jerusalem, but they can sell to other Jordanians; otherwise a Jordanian Council of Ministers' approval is required.

Dr. Muasher repeated that Jordan does not recognise Jerusalem as part of Israel but as part of the occupied

The ambassador stressed that Jordan's relations with Israel will not be at the expense of its relations with the other Arab states.

Noting that Jordanian-Palestinian ties are now stronger than ever, the ambassador said that Jordan was maintaining close contacts with Israeli Arabs who stood fast in their homeland over more than 50 years, retaining their Arab culture and Arab identity.

### Buildup biggest since war

(Continued from page 1)

ambassador, Nizar Hamdon.

The council last April authorised Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months to enable it to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies for its economy ravaged by the sanctions.

Iraq has frequently rejected the scheme as it did to a similar council offer in 1991 on grounds that the heavy monitoring involved violated Iraqi sovereignty.

Iraqis reacted bitterly to the Security Council's decision to keep up the embargo on their country.

"We don't know how to cope with these rising prices, nor how to meet our needs with winter approaching," Mohammad Yassin, a civil servant and father of eight told AFP.

Galloping inflation caused by the embargo has decimated the dinar. The average monthly wage is now around 4,000 to 6,000 dinars, the equivalent of only \$2 to \$3

### Hebron must be in deal -- Musa

(Continued from page 1)

chosen the wrong way to attack the Israeli-PLO accords.

Ibrahim Ghoshieh, the official spokesman for Hamas, sent a message to Colonel Qadhafi about "the unjustified expulsions," the group said in a statement.

"Hamas categorically refuses that the Palestinian people be placed under the hammer and anvil... and that they be the victims of a political position which is trying to express, in an erroneous way, a rejection of the Oslo accords" for autonomy, the statement said.

Col. Qadhafi called on Arab countries on Sept. 1 to expel Palestinians to the occupied West Bank to show up the failure of the accords which launched Palestinian self-rule (see page 12).

Col. Qadhafi's call was slammed by Mr. Arafat as a "deliberate provocation" and an attack on the Palestinian people.

### U.N. admits civilians hit

(Continued from page 1)

The operations would continue "until commanders decide" the Serbs had complied with the demands of NATO and the United Nations.

In Moscow, angered by their nation's declining clout, Russian lawmakers voted Saturday to demand the firing of Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev for the "unacceptable" Russian diplomacy in the Balkans.

The State Duma or lower house of parliament also urged in the non-binding vote that Russia suspend its participation in NATO's Partnership for Peace programme in protest against the air-strikes on Bosnian Serbs.

Venting nationalist sentiments in a special session called by three opposition factions, legislators called for President Boris Yeltsin to sign into law legislation it passed last month to unilaterally lift sanctions against Serb-led Yugoslavia.

The resolution, which passed 258-2, carries no force of law. But it signifies a political consensus Mr. Yeltsin cannot afford to ignore with his government's policies on public trial in the run up to December parliamentary elections.

The Serbs are Russia's historic ally in the Balkans and Moscow says the Serbs have been unfairly blamed by the West for the carnage in the former Yugoslavia.

The resolution called for a high level meeting of the contact group comprising Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States and also a meeting of the U.N. Security Council to "assess the responsibility of

### Balkans crisis

Moscow has backed the Serb position in the Balkans with varying degrees of conviction, and the Duma vote came as Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov arrived in Belgrade to discuss the outcome of Friday's Geneva accord on "basic principles" for a solution to the Bosnian conflict.

Mr. Ivanov was Russia's representative at the Geneva meeting at which Belgrade agreed in principle to recognise Bosnia-Herzegovina in exchange for recognition of a Bosnian Serb "republic" within its borders.

He was due to discuss the meeting with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

The United Nations and Croatia meanwhile reached an agreement in principle on the departure of a group of Serb refugees from the former rebel Serb stronghold of Knin, U.N. special envoy to the former Yugoslavia Yasushi Akashi said in Zagreb.

"We hope to see this agreement implemented next week, and even to see some refugees leaving for Kosovo (the southern Serbian province which is 90 per cent populated by ethnic Albanians)," Mr. Akashi added, following a meeting with Hrvoje Sarinic, a senior aide in the Croatian presidential office.

Until now the refugees' departure had been held up because of the U.N.'s refusal to hand over 62 people whom Croatian authorities have accused of "war crimes."

According to Mr. Akashi, Croatian authorities have pledged to respect international standards regarding the 62.

### 3 of 5 French oppose tests

(Continued from page 1)

by 59 per cent to 36 per cent, with five per cent undecided.

The new poll does not differ significantly from those conducted before Tuesday's test. French people had already expressed opposition at levels of between 60 and 63 per cent.

The latest IFOP poll was conducted Sept. 7-8 among 957 people described as over 18 and representative of the French population.

In London 2,000 people demonstrated in front of the French embassy in a protest called by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) against the French resumption of nuclear tests.

French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette lashed out at European Union (EU) critics of France's decision to resume nuclear testing.

At his first meeting with EU counterparts since France proceeded with the first of eight planned tests on Mururoa atoll, Mr. De Charette expressed dismay that countries like Austria, Denmark, Ireland and Sweden had undermined EU solidarity by publicly criticising the French decision.

Briefing journalists, Mr. De Charette described his statement as a "fraternal warning."

France was particularly angered by Swedish Culture Minister Margot Wallström's participation in an anti-nuclear demonstration in Tahiti earlier this month.

The incident, which the French government has condemned as unacceptable interference in its affairs, prompted the recall of Paris's

### 3 of 5 French oppose tests

(Continued from page 1)

ambassador in Stockholm and caused a visit to France by the Swedish Prime Minister to be postponed.

"It is the first time in the history of the EU that France been obliged to recall its ambassador from another member state," Mr. De Charette complained.

Four Greenpeace activists were expelled from France Friday for organising anti-nuclear protests that have turned violent in the South Pacific.

Authorities expelled the four "in absolute urgency" from all French territory" at dawn Friday, said Alexandre Faro, a lawyer for the environmental group.

They had been flown to France by military plane on Thursday from a French military base in Hao, not far from the French Polynesian atoll, where President Jacques Chirac on Tuesday ordered the first of up to eight underground nuclear tests.

Greenpeace has organised fierce protests worldwide, and has a flotilla of protest ships ringing the Mururoa atoll about 1,200 kilometres off Tahiti.

A second planeload of tourists left the riot-stricken Tahitian capital as the city reopened for business for the first time since the French nuclear testing sparked a spree of violence, arson and looting.

As peace returned to Papeete, French Polynesia's President Gaston Flosse blamed local politics and not nuclear testing for the riots.



## Saudi farmers seen planting less wheat, barley

DUBAI (R) — Farmers in Saudi Arabia are planting less wheat and barley this year and output is expected to fall after the government cut subsidies and raised prices for diesel fuel, economists have said.

A drop in Saudi wheat output means it will not export wheat in the 1995/96 crop year. This is part of the kingdom's plans to align output with domestic consumption, the economists said.

They said barley imports would rise. "They (Saudi government) have brought the wheat price down, they've brought the quota down and now they've put the fuel price up," an agricultural consultant told Reuters. "And that was like pouring water on a drowning man."

Farmers in Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, started exporting surplus wheat in the 1980s and sold about 1.5 million tonnes abroad in the year ending June 1995.

But an oil price fall has forced the country to cut generous subsidies and raise fuel prices to increase government revenue.

In June, Saudi Arabia said it would lower the price it pays wheat farmers to 1,500 riyals (\$400) a tonne from 2,000 (\$533) for the next crop, which will be planted in October and harvested next May or June.

"The fuel price has absolutely destroyed the economics of it (growing wheat and barley)," the Saudi-based consultant said. "They really are kicking them when

they're down."

The U.S. agricultural trade office in Riyadh released revised estimates Tuesday showing 465,000 hectares (1.1 million acres) will be harvested for wheat in 1995/96, down from its June estimate of 512,000 hectares (1.3 million acres). Area harvested in the previous year was 581,000 hectares (1.4 million acres).

The revisions put 1995/96 wheat output at two million tonnes, down from its June estimate of 2.2 million tonnes and compared with 1994/95 output of 2.5 million.

Its forecast for barley is 1.2 million tonnes in 1995/96 compared with earlier forecasts of 1.5 million. The U.S. report said the difference of 300,000 tonnes would be imported and raise total barley

imports to 4.5 million tonnes in 1995/96.

The consultant said wheat output could be 1.6 million tonnes based on estimates that farmers would harvest 400,000 hectares (988,000 acres) this year, 100,000 hectares (247,000 acres) less than last year.

The consultant also forecast lower yield because fertilizer prices rose 30 per cent and diesel used to pump scarce water soared 370 per cent since January.

"On a fair-sized diesel engine, it makes a horrendous difference on a wheat crop. They have cut back on input of urea and fuel. Previously the farmers just threw everything at it," he said. "I've seen many farms and I've never seen the wheat look as

bad as it did last year."

Another Saudi-based agricultural economist said he had initial estimates that the country would export about 600,000 tonnes in the 1995/96 crop year. He now says it would not export any wheat after revising down his estimates of area harvested.

"Output is down as some farmers didn't plant," said Hussein Mosa, an analyst at the U.S. office.

Economists see wheat output falling in two to three years to 1.5 million tonnes, about level with most estimates of demand.

"Their target is they want to equal consumption with production, and if they have a marginal oversupply, it would go into a strategic reserve," said the agricultural consultant.

## Promises of higher pay add risk to Russian inflation

MOSCOW (R) — Russian inflation hit a post-reform low of 4.6 per cent in August but economists said promises of cash for teachers, soldiers and the fight against crime could make it hard for Moscow to meet its spending plans.

President Boris Yeltsin said teachers' pay would rise 50 per cent this month.

"The promises raise the ante which have been looking for signs of a pre-election spending spree," said one economist. "But confirmation will only come if inflation rises or if the IMF detects a sign of increased credit emission in its regular monthly monitoring."

Budgetary discipline holds the key to Russia's ability to receive further tranches of a multi-billion dollar standby loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The August inflation rate equalled the monthly rise of 4.6 per cent seen in August last year and was the lowest since economic reforms began in January 1992.

Consumer prices rose 5.4 per cent in July, down from 18 per cent at the start of the year.

A tight budget and tough control on inflation are key elements in Russia's plans for economic reform but some economists fear that recent promises to pay teachers and soldiers more could hurt budget plans and push inflation up.

The report also said unit labour costs, typically two-thirds of the cost of a product, fell 1.2 per cent during the three months ended June 30.

## Economist sees China inflation at 17% in '95

BEIJING (Agencies) — China faces a tough task to achieve its goal of a soft landing for its economy this year, with inflation expected to come in above target at 17 per cent, a leading Chinese economist has said.

A main factor to blame was artificially propped up prices by monopolies rather than maintenance of China's ambitious bid to free prices from decades of central planning, Yang Fan of the Institute of Economics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences said in a telephone interview.

"It is impossible for China to achieve its inflation target of 15 per cent in 1995," he said.

"If China were to fulfil the target, inflation in the second half of the year would have to be no more than 11.5 per cent and this is impossible according to my forecasts," he said, adding he predicts inflation of 17 per cent in the year.

Retail price inflation in the January-July period was 17.9 per cent year-on-year. It fell to an annual 14.6 per cent in July from a post-1949 high of 21.7 per cent in 1994.

One major reason for a sharp fall in inflation that China achieved in the first seven months of the year was the use of administrative controls, the Economic Daily said.

"Almost half of all provinces and cities have reintroduced ration coupons, and in the first half of the year the amount of subsidies used to support price subsidies rose 78.6 per cent compared with a year ago," the official newspaper said.

China will have to struggle to achieve a soft landing, Mr. Yang said.

He forecast inflation would fall through October but would rise again in the last two months of the year.

His views were echoed by the Economic Daily, which forecast a possible price rebound if the government relaxed its two-year-old stringent monetary policy in response to a rising government wage bill and higher consumption.

One reason for the slow fall in prices was the existence of a virtual monopoly system by some government departments and local regions, which set prices for their products to prevent the value falling.

Mr. Yang said he expected the government to set a goal of 10 per cent inflation in 1996.

"But that is impossible to achieve... my prediction is 15 per cent," he said.

China has identified combating inflation as its top 1995 priority after consumer price inflation hit a post-1949 high of 24.1 per cent last year, sparking fears of worker unrest.

However, diplomats have warned that much of the recent gains have been administrative and may have failed to tackle the basic cause of soaring prices.

Economic growth in 1995 would be around 10 per cent, Mr. Yang said, above a target of 8-9 per cent. However, he forecast growth at around 8.0 per cent in 1996 as a result of the tight monetary policy.

He dismissed rumours China might relax its tight monetary policy, despite appeals by struggling state-owned enterprises.

"If the government loosened control, one quarter of the money would flow into stocks, property and other forms of speculation instead of being invested in industry," he said.

Meanwhile, the Xinhua news agency reported that the economic situation had been on target so far this year but conceded that problems remained.

## APEC investment principles fall short of global standards

TOKYO (AFP) — Only half of the investment principles adopted by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum last year meet global standards and the rest need to be strengthened, an advisory group said.

In a report presented to Japanese Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama ahead of this year's summit of APEC leaders in Osaka in November, the APEC Eminent Persons Group also suggested that the 10 non-binding principles should become a "voluntary code" which could perhaps ultimately become a binding agreement.

"We firmly believe that APEC is able to adopt world-class investment principles and that it needs to do so to assure its future success," the influential advisory group said.

In its first comprehensive assessment of the progress of the 18-member group, the report noted that the investment issue was the "first on which APEC has taken collective action" since the forum was founded in 1989.

The principles adopted by APEC ministers in Jakarta last year are "useful first step, with five of the 10 agreed principles meeting or exceeding international norms," it said, referring to those dealing with transparency, non-discrimination, expropriation, settling disputes and tax measures.

But four of the principles "fall well short of standards that have been set in other international agreements — those pertaining to transfer of

funds, capital movements, national treatment and performance requirements."

The report said the principle on performance requirements, which distort or limit the expansion of trade or investment, was actually "inconsistent" with the new rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

"A fifth, regarding investment incentives, fails to meet the tests for breaking new ground in this difficult but very important field," it said.

"A fifth, regarding investment incentives, fails to meet the tests for breaking new ground in this difficult but very important field," it said.

The report said the wording of the principle for the transfer of funds "fails to provide assurances about the free transfer of funds, calling merely for further liberalisation without specifying the ultimate goal."

In the area of capital movement, APEC's acceptance that barriers to the outflow of capital will be "minimised" also poses problems.

"There are no criteria against which to determine when the relevant barriers are in fact minimised," the report said, adding that "the current language would allow almost any such barriers to be unchallenged."

APEC's national treatment principle would meanwhile allow exceptions for "any new departure from national or most-favoured-nation treatment of foreign investors that was passed into national law, embodied in a new regulation or simply incorpo-

rated in a statement of policy," the report said.

"A first step is strengthening the language would be to include a date establishing a standstill on such exceptions," it added.

The fourth area to come under attack was the principle stating that members will minimise performance requirements. "The wording provides no meaningful guidance," the report said, "since there is no objective way to determine when the use of performance requirements is 'minimised'."

"The language is in fact inconsistent with the new WTO obligations on local content and trade balancing requirements, which are banned under the agreement on trade-related investment measures that was reached in the Uruguay Round."

In addition, the report said the APEC commitment not to relax health, safety or environmental standards as an incentive to foreign investment did "not go far enough toward liberalising tax and subsidy incentives."

"APEC governments should make available information on any tax or subsidy incentives to foreign investment, impose no new investment incentives and seek to roll back such distortions."

The advisory group noted that such incentives had proved to be a "difficult area" in all international forums, with the Uruguay Round and the North American Free Trade Agreement both failing to address the issue.

## Worker productivity in U.S. best in 9 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — The productivity of the American work force posted its best quarterly performance in nine years, an efficiency that helped drive down labour costs.

The Labour Department said that non-farm productivity shot up 4.8 per cent at a seasonally adjusted annual rate from April through June, even stronger than its three per cent initial estimate last month.

The increase was the biggest since productivity — defined as output per number of hours worked — jumped seven per cent in the first three months of 1986.

It was much larger than the 3.5 per cent improvement that many analysts had expected and followed a 2.5 per cent gain in the latest January-March quarter.

Productivity is a key measure of the nation's living standards and business competitiveness. Increases mean companies are making their goods more efficiently and at lower costs.

"The fact that it is up so steeply is encouraging," said Samuel Kahan, a Chicago-based economist. "Usually toward the end of a business cycle, productivity tends to decline because resources have been exhausted."

"But we're now into the fourth year of the recovery and we're still getting solid growth," he added. "It rivals what we had in the 1950s and is considerably better than the '70s and '80s."

Productivity increased more than two per cent annually during the 1950s, but slowed to 1.5 per cent in the 1960s and 1970s and to less than one per cent in the 1980s, Mr. Kahan said.

Mr. Kahan and other economists attribute much of the recent gains to business investments in high-tech equipment and to the restructuring and downsizing.

The report also said unit labour costs, typically two-thirds of the cost of a product, fell 1.2 per cent during the three months ended June 30.

**JUMBLE.** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Angilton

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**GAMLE**  
 O \_ \_ \_ \_  
 O \_ \_ \_ \_  
 O \_ \_ \_ \_

**ACOOC**  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

**BARTIL**  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

**YULNOH**  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: " \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ " (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: AUDIT BUMPY CARNAL SUCKLE  
 Answer: How pilots avoid mistakes — WITH "PLANE" TALK

**THE BETTER HALF.** By Glasbergen

Our wedding day was the happiest day of my life!

What about the day we got cable?

### Peanuts

### Andy Capp

### Mutt'n'Jeff

**THE Daily Crossword** by Jay Sullivan

ACROSS

- Handmaiden to Cleopatra
- she blows
- Damp
- Price
- Space lead-in
- Aromatic herb
- Like some foul balls
- Kind of boss
- Former Indian VIP
- Ship school
- Villainous expressions
- Mauve memento
- Cleft
- Newscast VIP
- Foul play
- Clearing in the woods
- Mayberry lad
- Sailing vessel
- Lotion additive
- One half of "The Odd Couple"
- Unemployed
- More submissive
- Phone fee
- A Bundy
- Idler
- Masterpiece
- It can be grand
- Adjust to fit
- Hockey offense
- Winter problem
- Biographer Ludwig
- Stone-suff
- Latches
- Gainsay
- Bible book: abbr.

DOWN

- Sacred images
- Where Jean of Arc was
- crow flies
- Butique
- Spigot
- Beatles movie
- Asian lake
- Majestic
- Chopping to pieces
- Biblical word
- Painter Joan
- Author Dinesen
- Moist
- Like animals
- Nay's opposite
- Mends
- contendere
- Game fish
- Grizzly weapon
- Nimbus
- What the nose knows
- Fume
- Tragic destiny
- dixit
- Paddy plant
- Shipbuilder's wood
- Japanese stringed instrument
- Take a vote
- Breaks the news
- Blow over
- Whistle-blower, for short
- Stared
- Pome
- See 44A
- Milton's Muse
- Like a sunflower
- Lave
- Pot
- Map abbrs.
- Retain
- GA city
- Double
- He was Tarzan

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

MALTIA SARD MILE  
 ARIEL ERIE ONIT  
 MEASIS TOP BANANA  
 ASTRODOMIE GENET  
 ROISA HAYES  
 AVERAGE TIP  
 RAVINE ROSEBOWL  
 ETAL EYE OLEA  
 ASSEMBLE BALLAD  
 OIL MALLARD  
 CADIZ HEEL  
 PAIRS METRODOMIE  
 ILLATEASE VIRAL  
 ELEM ORSO ERAISE  
 DADA SEER RENTE

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter, Astrological Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day to study your environment and make any improvements you feel are necessary, and you will be happier.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) There are obstacles against your having a grand time today, so be content with simple and wholesome pleasures which are best.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You have to be calm, cool and collected at home if you want to maintain harmony there today. This is not a good day to entertain.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Study further into the philosophy of life you profess and you can make later today much brighter thereby.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Study your financial status well and know how to cut down on expenses so that you can build a reserve quickly.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) There is a very little you can do about conditions today, so accept them and carry on wisely or there could be problems.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day to work on odds and ends so that you make time for bigger things ahead. Stave off tension at home.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You may meet with a disappointment where a friend is concerned today, so postpone asking a favour about a new idea.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Avoid the limelight today and steer clear of an encounter with a bigwig. Get busy at new interests for your success.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You want to get into some new interests, but you need more data before you can do so successfully.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You have to be patient today when many irritations may arise so that you do not lose your equilibrium.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Try to please a partner who is in a bit of a turmoil and show you are loyal and understanding. This is not a good day to discuss future agreements.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli



SEPTEMBER 10, 1995

## China in '95

China was expected to be a virtual monopoly in the government's policy to raise prices for products to prevent the inflation. The government was expected to set a goal of 10 per cent inflation in 1995.

China's growth in 1995 was expected to be around 10 per cent, which is a target set by the government. However, the government's policy to raise prices for products to prevent the inflation is expected to be a virtual monopoly.

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## Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

## Civil Consumer Corporation signs 223 agreements in 8 months

Through 132 tenders, the Civil Consumer Corporation (CCC) has signed 223 purchasing agreements during the first eight months of this year. As such, the corporation has opened 17 letters of credit each covering more than 30 products. The corporation's director-general said the government has decided this year to raise the ceiling of exemptions from customs tariffs on the purchases of the corporation to JD 8 million, thereby giving an indirect subsidy to civil servants and limited-income groups. He said that the corporation's profit margin did not exceed 2.6 per cent, noting that prices at the CCC were 30 to 40 per cent less than the market prices. The CCC's total purchases last year amounted to JD 23 million while sales reached JD 27 million. JD 20 million of the purchases were locally-made products (Al Aswat).

THE JORDAN Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) is currently conducting a study on gas cylinders to avoid a winter crisis as demand on them is expected to increase for heating purposes. The JPRC general manager said the company would be importing 150,000 gas cylinders in addition to the local production averaging 450 cylinders a day. He said that liquefied gas would also be imported to cover the country's needs as there has been high demand for it recently. The JPRC chief indicated that the company has an integrated plan to replace all worn out gas cylinders with new ones. However, he said, gas distributors have directly imported more than 150,000 cylinders which the JPRC does not take any responsibility for them from safety or technical sides (Al Dustour).

THE JORDAN Trade Association is arranging for a Jordanian commercial delegation to visit the self-rule areas and the West Bank from Nov. 10 to Nov. 16, 1995. The visit will enable Jordanian businessmen to meet their Palestinian counterparts to discuss joint cooperation and to get acquainted with the general economic situation there. The visit will include individual and group tours to various industries and companies (Al Dustour).

DISAGREEMENTS among the board of directors of the Al Qimamah for Plastic Construction Material Industries have led to the voluntary liquidation of the company before it started functioning. A meeting of the general assembly approved the liquidation. Al Qimamah was a buy an established industrial company but negotiations broke up after the second party withdrew its sale offer. A board member said that Abdul Halim Aldeen was the man behind the liquidation of the company as he was the board chairman of Al Qimamah and the owner of the industry target for purchase. Having failed to get the price he wanted for his factory and being the majority shareholder and board chairman, Aldeen drove the public-shareholding company into liquidation. Mr. Aldeen told the general assembly that the company's capital was secure and that shareholders will get back their money in full (Al Ra'i).

WORKERS AT the Irbid District Electricity Company are demanding higher wages due to the continued rise in the cost of living and loss of purchasing power especially when their counterparts in other institutions receive better pay and privileges. The employees are seeking a JD 20 salary increase and a rise in service allowance from JD 6 to JD 37.5 (Al Dustour).

## NBC to expand in Europe early next year with business television

BERLIN (R)—NBC Television, one of the leading networks in the United States, has said it would step up its international expansion and launch its popular CNBC business channel in Europe next year. NBC Superchannel, the U.S. network's European programme, plans to broadcast the business channel by satellite and cable and to offer a separate package for viewing on computers. The move is aimed at strengthening the U.S. broadcaster's position in Europe ahead of a coming technological revolution that will bring about a dramatic increase in the amount of television programming available in the home and office. "Plenty of cable operators would like to have a dedicated business channel in their programme," Patrick Cox, chairman of NBC Superchannel, told reporters at a television trade fair in Berlin. The formal launch of a 24-hour CNBC Europe business channel will be early 1996. The CNBC business channel reports on financial and economic developments with comments from industry and market players. It is just one of several business television programmes. Other programmes include Financial Times Television, which is owned by the Pearson Publishing Group, European Business News, operated by the Dow Jones Company of the U.S. and Reuters Financial Television.

The CNBC programme and NBC Superchannel's current business programme. The Money Wheel, are targeted at the financial professional and travelling executive interested in live, direct market-based news, Mr. Cox said. Mr. Cox also believes that the coming revolution in digital television technology and the rapid growth of online computer services mean that broadcasts will have to expand their distribution channels to include the personal computer. "We believe a very large

proportion of people will be viewing television on computer monitors," Mr. Cox said, adding that a recognisable market for PC-based television will become apparent in as little as "two to three years." NBC Superchannel is developing its computer-based product together with a German company, the DFA Agency, which provides news footage for Germany's commercial television networks. Mr. Cox also hinted that NBC Superchannel may develop a separate full-service programme for Germany. "We want to do some research and get a better idea of our ratings first," he said. "But if you wish to be a player in Europe you have to have a strong presence in Germany."

Such a move would mean applying for a broadcasting licence in Germany, a complex matter dominated by regional politics. With the advent of digital television, Europe's jam-packed cable networks and satellite networks for direct-to-home TV transmission could offer near infinite capacity. The Kirchgruppe, owned by Bavarian media magnate Leo Kirch, showed off a "digital bouquet" of programmes that could be launched early next year. The package includes near video on demand, which staggers transmission times so the viewer can choose the most convenient time to watch a film and also allows sporting events to be viewed from several camera angles. But the market for business television, both for the professional and for the home, is growing rapidly.

Colin Chapman, managing director of Financial Times Television, said his company would expand its business in Europe and could offer special programming for financial markets in encrypted form as pay TV. "A Bundesbank press conference is a big event," he said. "There is also a market for instant analysis and I don't think people want to wait for the next day's newspaper."

Financial Markets				
In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank				
U.S. Dollar in International Markets				
Currency	New York Close (Sep 8/9/95)	London Close (Sep 8/9/95)		
Sterling Pound	1.5500	1.5505		
Deutsche Mark	1.4783	1.4773		
Swiss Franc	1.2168	1.2160		
French Franc	5.0935	5.0905		
Japanese Yen	98.98	99.08		
European Currency Unit	1.2648	1.2693		

Precious Metals				
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz
Gold	381.65	1.75	Silver	5.39
				0.170

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin				
Date: 9/9/1995				
Currency	Bid	Offer		
U.S. Dollar	0.714	0.716		
Sterling Pound	1.1055	1.1110		
Deutsche Mark	0.484	0.4848		
Swiss Franc	0.5975	0.5984		
French Franc	0.1405	0.1412		
Japanese Yen	0.7145	0.7179		
Dutch Guilder	0.4512	0.4534		
Swedish Krona	---	---		
Italian Lira	0.0345	0.0349		
Belgian Franc	---	---		

Other Currencies				
Date: 9/9/1995				
Currency	Bid	Offer		
Bahraini Dinar	1.8770	1.8810		
Lebanese Lira	0.04325	0.04345		
Saudi Riyal	0.190	0.1914		
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2970	2.3350		
Qatari Riyal	0.195	0.1974		
Egyptian Pound	0.2300	0.2360		
Omani Rial	1.6480	1.6650		
UAE Dirham	0.1942	0.1964		
Greek Drachma	0.2955	0.3255		
Cypriot Pound	1.4955	1.5750		

## Al Shall sounds caution on Kuwait stock revival

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's resurgent stock market may founder if the authorities mishandle the recovery by encouraging a speculative rush for profits, an economic consultancy said Saturday. Al Shall Consultancy, in a weekly commentary recalling the turbulent history of stock trade in the Gulf state, said market indicators were moving in "positive directions" and share trade was reaching levels not seen since the volatile early 1980s. "It is feared that misunderstanding, especially by the government, of these indicators may lead it to consider the increase in trading and

prices as objectives in themselves, thus driving away the funds of dealers and companies from rational investment towards risky speculation," Al Shall said. "This has happened frequently and resulted in many victims," added the consultancy headed by parliamentary economic adviser Jassem Al Saadoun. It was referring to a surge in stock speculation in the late 1970s and early 1980s that culminated in the 1982 crash of an unofficial Kuwaiti bourse called the Souq Al Manakh. Government officials who

had borrowed from banks to play the market and cash in on the boom were among the big losers. The crash of the now defunct exchange left a tangled trail of tens of billions of dollars in bad debt that haunts the economy to this day and triggered costly government intervention to revive prices on the official exchange in later years. Trade regulations on the official exchange were drastically tightened in the wake of the Manakh collapse. This year the official market is the Gulf's most

buoyant, the back of good company results, a spate of privatisations, an improved sense of security in the country and a relaxation of repayment terms for some listed companies with bad debt. The price index has risen by 26 per cent this year, and Al Shall said the market's total traded value for 1995 was expected to be over 1.5 billion dinars (\$1.93 billion), which it said was the highest traded value since the Manakh period. Total market capitalisation rose 19 per cent to 3.991 billion dinars (\$3.259 million) in the first eight months of 1995. The market had become more liquid and a greater spread of stocks were traded. Al Shall said the figures were positive but did not necessarily show a fundamental growth of investment activity.

Kuwaiti firms account for 44 of the 50 listed companies. The other six are Gulf-based firms. Only nationals of the Gulf Cooperation Council of the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia may trade in listed companies.

## Indian sues Citibank

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — A court has asked Citibank to answer charges that it seized a customer's car illegally because he refused to pay for a mistake the bank made on its loan, a news agency reported Saturday. Citibank officials were not immediately available to comment on a report by United News of India (UNI) about Ram Avtar's lawsuit in a local court. Mr. Avtar said Citibank wrongly declared in 1992 that he had paid off his car loan. He told the bankers it was not so and tried several times to persuade them to accept his payments. Subsequently the bank realised its mistake, but slapped penal interest for the nine months he was trying to convince officials about the mistake. UNI quoted Mr. Avtar as saying the bankers acted like "sharks" and seized his car this year without a court order. The bank had thus arrogated to itself the powers of a judge, he said. In the past, some people have accused Citibank of hiring thugs to seize cars when they defaulted on loan payments. The bank apologised for the highhandedness of some of its collectors, but denied any wrongdoing. The bank said it had always informed the police.

## World's first futures exchange in fresh fruit opens in Valencia

VALENCIA, Spain (AP) — Trading at what is being billed as the world's first futures exchange in fresh fruit began Friday in Spain's orange-growing capital on the Mediterranean coast. The Valencia Citrus and Commodities Futures Exchange hopes to reach trading volume of 40,000 tonnes of navel and naveline oranges in its first season, which would be about five per cent of Spain's annual production of two million tonnes. Spain is the world's biggest exporter of oranges, 80 per cent of which are grown in the eastern Valencia region. If successful, the exchange operators say it could be expanded to include trading in commodities derivatives in some of Spain's other key agricultural products — olives, grapes, and perhaps even the delicate and costly saffron that is a key ingredient in the Spanish rice dish, paella.

The exchange has been set up with a one-billion-peseta (\$7.9-million) investment shared by several Spanish banks and the Valencia regional government, which paid for one third. The aim of the exchange is to support the highly fragmented orange market, which includes nearly 1,000 small growers in addition to larger operations, by calming fears and reducing seasonal risk through hedging. Contract months for the navel and naveline oranges will be from November to March. The contracts will be for physical delivery of five-tonne units of oranges, priced in pesetas per kilogramme. Trading in Valencia late oranges is to begin next January with contract months from April to July. The maximum variation allowed for the navel-naveline contract will be 16 per cent of the previous session's settlement price.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - REPORTANT				
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607175				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 09/09/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PTC	580	131950	228.00	227.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	13700	52460	4.500	4.500
BANK OF JORDAN	250	850	3.400	3.400
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	300	351	1.160	1.170
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	212	427	2.000	2.000
THE HOUSING BANK	2050	11671	5.700	5.650
JORDAN KUPAT BANK	5050	13939	2.770	2.760
JORDAN GULF BANK	2100	2419	1.120	1.160
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	5935	22002	3.730	3.740
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	173	11550	4.050	3.950
BUSINESS BANK	1000	4000	4.000	4.000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	350	1120	3.200	3.200
SELT KHALAF SAVINGS/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	51715	51032	980	980
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1364	5400	5.350	5.350
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	2558	45885	1.560	1.640
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	26480	121671	384543	INDEX NUMBER: 185.74
BANKS SECTOR				CHANGE: -0.047
GENERAL ARABIA INSURANCE	2794	12710	3.350	3.350
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	2150	5589	2.600	2.590
INSURANCE SECTOR	5944	18299	INDEX NUMBER: 125.03	CHANGE: -0.057
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	20436	33263	1.630	1.630
JORDAN RIMEX MINERAL	100	280	2.500	2.500
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	1550	4554	2.730	2.760
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	3700	7804	2.100	2.100
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	1575	1860	1.170	1.190
WACHWAY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	150	98	640	650
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRAI	1000	9950	9.950	9.950
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMERCIAL HOTELS	34500	83910	2.400	2.450
ARAB INTL. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	2500	7975	3.170	3.190
ZAKA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	3400	4517	1.350	1.330
SERVICES SECTOR	69161	154181	INDEX NUMBER: 127.81	CHANGE: -0.547
ATTACHEE CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	200	240	1.200	1.200
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	84956	31176	3.680	3.670
JORDAN FERTILIZER FACTORIES	676	2233	3.010	3.010
THE ARAB POTASH	10050	45746	4.550	4.550
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	434	4076	9.390	9.390
WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	4500	6750	1.500	1.500
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	751	2378	3.180	3.170
THE JORDAN MINERAL WATERS	150	1115	7.450	7.450
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	2162	10858	5.040	5.030
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	300	761	2.560	2.540
SPINNING & WEAVING	500	940	1.910	1.880
RAPID INDUSTRIES	2350	5405	2.290	2.300
DAR AL DAKL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	500	3755	7.500	7.450
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	500	2703	5.450	5.400
LEVESTOCK & POULTRY	247450	167891	5.70	6.00
ARAB PAPER CONVEYING & TRADING	3750	5195	1.380	1.390
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	1000	2480	2.460	2.460
INTERNATIONAL PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	19200	20912	1.040	1.050
JORDAN ROCKWOL INDUSTRIES	150	287	1.950	1.910
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	750	865	1.140	1.160
RAHBER INVESTMENT	3150	6780	2.170	2.160
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	10500	18133	1.650	1.730
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	1000	3210	3.260	3.210
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	22050	44763	2.030	2.030
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	6250	10384	1.670	1.640
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETARIAN OIL INDUSTRY	7200	9971	1.380	1.380
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	250	515	2.060	2.060
GRAND TOTAL	551045	354269	392470	INDEX NUMBER: 126.03
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	224930			CHANGE: -0.301
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET	150223			CHANGE: -0.087

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Tennis star Boris Becker of Germany and wife Barbara arrive at the 1995 MTV Video Music Awards at the Radio City Music Hall in New York. Becker will be playing Andre Agassi in the semifinal of the U.S. Open (AFP photo)

## Becker, Courier stand in way of dream final

NEW YORK (R) — And now only Boris Becker and Jim Courier stand in the way of the match of the entire tennis world has been clamouring for — an Andre Agassi-Pete Sampras U.S. Open final.

The pre-tournament buzz has grown to fever pitch in recent days as Agassi and Sampras made their inexorable marches toward what many hope will be a climatic final showdown.

And why not? They are the two finest tennis players in the world battling for supremacy on the Grand Slam stage with their national title on the line.

The extreme contrast in their playing styles and personalities made the hotly anticipated match-up all the more compelling, as does the feeling each carries that when on top of his game, there is only one player on the planet that can beat him.

"I look at Pete like if he is playing his best tennis, he is the guy I got to worry about the most," said top-ranked defending champion Agassi.

From the first round, there has not been one Agassi interview where he has not been asked about Sampras, nor a Sampras interview without the inevitable Agassi question. Each time they declare it premature to discuss such a meeting.

Now they are just one victory away, yet each faces such formidable opposition — Agassi from Becker and Sampras from Courier — that the made-for-TV "Super Saturday" format may just live up to its name.

Rarely has there been four U.S. open semifinalists with

such impeccable Grand Slam pedigrees as the class of '95. All four have been number one in the world and Becker, Sampras and Agassi have all won the tournament, while Courier was runner-up in 1991.

Between them, Becker, Sampras, Agassi and Courier have claimed seven Wimbledon crowns, four U.S. Open titles, five Australian and two French Opens.

Both semifinals feature classic match-ups of serve and volley versus baseline basher.

And Becker has already spoiled the Sampras-Agassi party once this year with a stirring come-from-behind semifinal win over Agassi at Wimbledon, a victory that put the German star into his seventh Wimbledon final.

At 27 the elder statesman of the group, Becker has been playing excellent tennis the past two weeks and declared himself at the top of his hardcourt game.

"I smell that I have a chance. I'm going to have to raise my game up another level," said the fourth seed, who lost to Agassi in the 1990 U.S. Open semis.

Agassi, who reached the final of all nine hardcourt tournaments he entered this year, has often played only as well as he has needed to in order to win, but winning has become a habit.

Since falling to Becker on the German's favourite playground in July, Agassi has not lost. He takes a 25-match winning streak and a taste for revenge into Saturday's showdown.

"I've had a lot of good

matches with Boris. Needless to say the last time we played was a pretty spectacular one," said the man with the game's most spectacular return of serve of his Wimbledon setback.

Second seed Sampras, who owns the most lethal serve in the game, has looked more awesome with each victory here.

By the 6-0 third set of his 22-ace quarter-final victory over Byron Black, Sampras was approaching perfection.

"I feel like I am ready to go," said Sampras, who won his third consecutive Wimbledon crown this year and is looking to reach his fourth U.S. Open final in six years.

Sampras is expecting a war from a rejuvenated Courier, whose blistering forehand groundstrokes carried him to his 100th career Grand Slam match victory, a quarter-final upset of fifth seed Michael Chang.

"It is going to be a brutal match," predicted Sampras who is 11-3 against Courier, but just 1-1 in past U.S. Open meetings.

Courier is unquestionably the underdog against Sampras. But he has played his best tennis in two years this week, far better than his ranking of 15 reflects.

Whether fans get the final they have been dreaming about or not, there is sure to be an electric atmosphere at the National Tennis Centre Saturday and plenty of energy for the players to feed off of.

"I feel I'm just a little excitement away from playing some great tennis," said Agassi.

## Graf, Seles sweep semifinals

NEW YORK (R) — The dream final became a reality as rollicking Monica Seles and emboldened Steffi Graf posted straight-set victories on Friday to set up a championship clash at the U.S. Open.

Seles, making a glorious return to Grand Slam tennis after a 28-month competitive absence, soared past last year's Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez, 6-2, 6-2.

Graf, hampered by physical problems and emotional traumas of her own, battled fiercely to beat longtime rival Gabriela Sabatini 6-4, 7-6 (7-5), to set up the showdown between the world's co-number ones.

"Playing against Steffi is going to be fun. It's going to be a great day whatever happens," Seles said between bouts of barely controllable giggles.

Just to be in the final, gosh is someone had told me one year, or two years ago that I'd have a chance to go out and play great tennis tomorrow, it's beyond what I dreamed of."

In a strange twist to this

improbable tennis saga, the finalists have virtually swapped roles in terms of favourite and underdog in the year's last Grand Slam.

Coming into the tournament, Seles, sidelined by the physical and then emotional pain caused by the knife stabbing attack by a deranged Graf fan during a match in Hamburg, was seen as the underdog hoping to shake off the rust well enough to contend.

Graf was the world beater, winning Wimbledon and the French Open and losing just one match in 33 for the year.

On the National Tennis Centre stage, however, Seles has been in full bloom, competing with obvious relish and smashing success.

Graf, meanwhile, has battled injury and openly admitted to feeling the emotional fallout of having her father, Peter, imprisoned in Germany on tax evasion charges.

After clinching her hard-fought, one-hour 38-minute victory over Sabatini, the 26-year-old Graf ran to a court-side box to embrace her mother, Heidi, and her Swiss

coach Heinz Gunthardt.

"I didn't expect to be able to get to the finals, so it really got to me," said Graf about her emotional display.

Graf was bothered before the tournament by a chronic back injury and has suffered a bone irritation in her left foot that required attention during the first set against Sabatini.

But the sombre way she has comforted herself at the Open speaks volumes about the stress she has endured since her father's imprisonment.

"I think there's a whole list I could mention on why I didn't think I would be there," Graf said about reaching the final. "It took a lot of me, the last few weeks. Much more than at any other stage in my life."

"What I've achieved already here means so much more than what I achieved at Wimbledon or Paris," said Graf, who captured both those titles this year. "It's definitely been the most demanding time and the most demanding inside of me."



Monica Seles

## Insiders give Seles slight nod in U.S. Open

NEW YORK (R) — Monica Seles and Steffi Graf followed the fairytale script on Friday to set up the match the tennis world has been waiting more than two years to watch.

"This is as good as it gets," Martina Navratilova said of the Seles-Graf showdown in the U.S. Open women's final on Saturday.

"Tomorrow is going to be fantastic," Navratilova said after the top-seeded Graf beat ninth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini and second-seed Seles mauled fourth-seed Conchita Martinez in the semifinals.

"Both of them are two of the all-time greats," Navratilova said of duo, who be-

tween them have won 25 Grand Slam titles. "This is the best final you could ask for."

The pair have not played since Seles won a three-set final at the 1993 Australian Open. Three months later, Seles was stabbed in the back during a match in Hamburg. She missed the next 10 Grand Slams before returning to competition last month.

Having waited this long for reprise, tennis people are calling it the year's finest moment.

"I think it could be the match of the whole year," said Dutch tennis coach Betty Stove, the 1977 Wimbledon

finalist. "I think it will be one of those really tense, dramatic matches," said Briton Virginia Wade, winner of three Grand Slam singles titles in her hall of fame career. "It's fantastic."

"I'm pretty sure it will go three sets," said Wade. Though Graf leads the career series 6-4, it is Seles who is given the edge by insiders this time.

"I think Monica will win," Stove said of the 21-year-old naturalised American.

"I think she is eager, she will fight to the end and has nothing to lose. Her serve has improved from what it was two years ago."

"Monica is very positive on everything," Stove said of Seles who has not lost a set.

Graf had a shaky start in a three-set struggle against South African Amanda Coetzer in the first round but has not lost another set since.

"At the beginning of the tournament I was heavily in favour of Seles," said Wade. "Then halfway through the tournament Steffi started to play and look very good and very fit."

"I now have to consider it a pretty even match. I could say one moment Monica will win if... and in the next moment I could say Steffi will win, if..."

When pressed for a winner Wade replied: "I would say 51 percent to 49 in favour of Monica."

Navratilova gives the nod to Seles because of the consistency she has with her twofold groundstrokes.

"It will be a slugfest and I would have to give the edge to Monica just because she is steadier on both sides and has been throughout the tournament," she said.

If there is doubt about who will win, there is no question about how the match will be played.

"I will be played at full

tilt," Wade said of two biggest hitters from the baseline in the women's game.

"It is two tigers," Stove said. "I don't think this is a match of who is going to make the last mistake. This is going to be a slugfest. The stakes are as high as they can get, according to Stove."

"I think it is battle for number one," she said. "It looks like Monica has never left. It will decide who is actually number one for this year."

The 26-year-old Graf took over number one from Seles and has held that spot since the stabbing except briefly earlier this year when Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario moved ahead of the German for a few weeks.

Seles was given a co-ranking of number one as part of her return to the WTA Tour.

While Seles gets the nod, Wade knows that Graf can tip the balance her way. "Monica" has played incredibly well but she hasn't had somebody quite as athletic and who generates as much pace as Steffi," said Wade.

"She might find that a little difficult to cope with."

## Food poisoning mars Tour of Spain

ZAMORA, Spain (R) — A bout of food poisoning turned the Tour of Spain into the survival of the fittest on Friday.

Forty-five riders from seven competing teams fought bouts of diarrhoea and stomach cramps as they struggled through the 264 km sixth stage from Orense to Zamora.

Race leader Laurent Jalabert was among the victims of the outbreak, believed to have stemmed from a Bolognese sauce or cream dessert at dinner on Thursday night.

"Like everyone I had problems today, but I feel better now," the Frenchman said.

There was more drama near the end when about 10 riders crashed heavily as they sprinted themselves for the line.

Spain's Jose Santamaria was taken to hospital with a broken collar-bone and suspected head injuries. He was detained overnight for observation.

Italy's Nicola Minali managed to avoid both illness and crash and sped to victory in the longest section of the race. He spent seven hours 27 seconds in the saddle achieving it.

Marcel Wust of Germany and Adriano Baffi of Italy were second and third respectively.

Jalabert, who leads Spaniard Abraham Olano by 29 seconds and Switzerland's Alex Zülle by 38 seconds, needs to dominate the 41 km time trial in Salamanca to put the outcome beyond the reach of his rivals.

## De La Hoya set for WBO lightweight title bout

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Winning fights hasn't been much of a problem for Oscar De La Hoya in his young pro career. Winning over fans has proven more difficult.

That shouldn't change Saturday night when Genaro Hernandez figures to be the fan favourite when he challenges De La Hoya for the WBO lightweight title.

"Every time I step in the ring they're always cheering for the other guy," De La Hoya said. "I'm not sure what it is. But in time people will see the best in me. I know in time I can capture the fans' love."

The 1992 Olympic gold medalist takes on a fellow Los Angeles champion for the second time in as many fights when he meets Hernandez in the scheduled 12-round fight at Caesars Palace.

In De La Hoya's last fight, he stopped Rafael Ruelas in the second round, much to the dismay of the crowd that cheered Ruelas wildly when he entered the ring.

"I don't think people don't want to accept it," he said. "A lot of fans say maybe my fights are fixed because I'm knocking these guys out easy. I'll be 30-0 and it still will be the same way."

It's not as if De La Hoya doesn't try to build a following. The 22-year-old is handsome, flashes a ready smile and is articulate and agreeable in interviews.

His fights draw fairly well, although the bout against Hernandez isn't expected to be a sellout in the 15,000-seat outdoor arena at Caesars. Pay-per-view sales are expected to be decent, but part of that is due to the following Hernandez, has in the Los Angeles area.

The problem might stem from a feeling among many fight fans that De La Hoya's career is manufactured and that he is being marketed too slickly for a boxer with only 18 pro fights.

## Nigeria tipped for African Games soccer title

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Nigeria are favoured to win the sixth All-African Games soccer finals, a tournament restricted to players under 23 which begins in Harare on Tuesday.

The west Africans who can call on European-based professionals like Nwankwo Kano and Augustine Okacha, have been paired with Guinea, Algeria and Mauritius in Group B.

Hosts Zimbabwe, neighbours Zambia, Egypt and Congo, who surprisingly eliminated defending champions Cameroon in qualifying rounds, comprise Group A.

Because teams change for each tournament due to the age limit, there is no form guide, although recent Olympic qualifying matches offer an insight into the potential of some finalists.

Apart from overcoming Ivory Coast in the All-Africa Games preliminaries, Nigeria have defeated Kenya and Egypt in the Olympic qualifiers with a win in Mombasa and draw in Cairo suggesting they travel well.

Guinea could pose the biggest threat judging by the convincing manner in which they dealt with Senegal last month, winning both legs with Abdul Karim Sylla leading the goal charge.

The Guineans may not be

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Symphony to perform in Atlanta '96

ATLANTA (AP) — A performance by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra during the 1996 Olympics will be "a dream come true," musical director Yoel Levi said. Organisers announced that the 96-member orchestra, with Levi and other conductors taking turns, will perform in the Games' opening ceremony. The orchestra is the first artist or group to be announced for the July 19 ceremony, which kicks off the centennial of the modern games. "For the orchestra, it's a dream come true, just as the Olympics were a dream come true for everyone in Atlanta," Levi said after signing a contract to perform.

### Martin, Fitz-Gerald in squash final

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AFP) — Michelle Martin and Sarah Fitz-Gerald, world number one and two, made it an all-Australian final in the Professional Squash Association/Women's International Squash Players Association (PSA/WISPA) tournament here on Saturday. Martin, who crashed to fellow Australian Liz Irving in the Malaysian Open final in May, gained sweet revenge over the world number four with a gruelling 10-9, 6-9, 3-9, 9-3, 9-6 win in the semi-finals. Fitz-Gerald, runner-up to Martin at the world open in Hong Kong in July, got off to a flying start to beat fifth-ranked Cassie Jachman of England 9-2, 9-0, 4-9, 9-6.

### Brazil into volleyball GP final

HAMAMATSU, Japan (AFP) — Brazil pulled off a four-sets victory over world champions Cuba on Saturday to earn a place in the final stage at the two million dollar women's volleyball world grand prix. The Brazilians who crashed in Cuba in the world championship final in straight sets last year, saved some face by scoring a 15-12, 15-13, 11-15, 15-10 victory.

## Fan resists offers to sell Ripken home run ball

BALTIMORE (AP) — Bryan Johnson got something even better than the home run ball Cal Ripken hit on the night he broke Lou Gehrig's consecutive baseball games record. He got to meet his hero in person.

Despite a cast for a fractured thumb, Johnson caught Ripken's fourth inning homer as it sailed over the left-field fence Wednesday night.

He was immediately bombarded with offers to buy the ball.

"I think I took one step and there was a person out there with a rather substantial wad of money saying 'three thousand; I'll give you four thousand; I'll give you

five thousand. How much do you want?'"

But Johnson, 33, told Orioles officials he wanted to give the ball to Ripken — in person.

"This is Cal's moment," he said. "I wanted him to have the ball."

Johnson met Ripken and his family after 2 a.m. Thursday to offer his congratulations and the home run ball.

But Ripken didn't let Johnson go away empty. He gave Johnson a bat on which he wrote:

"Bryan, thank you very much for the ball. It means a lot to me. We both share the same memory. Home run on 9-6-95. Cal."

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North-South vulnerable. North deals.			
NORTH			
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♥ QJ86			
♦ 10			
♣ 542			
WEST			
♠ Q6542			
♥ A			
♦ 4			
♣ KJ10976			
EAST			
♠ 8			
♥ 8753			
♦ QJ86532			
♣ 4			
SOUTH			
♠ A			
♥ K1042			
♦ A97			
♣ A83			
The bidding:			
NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST

more than half the players in the East seat opened with three diamonds — hardly a thing of beauty and a joy for a short time only had the North-South players elected to double and defend properly to exact the maximum punishment. However, most Souths chose to bid three no trump and that became the final contract.

After a diamond lead 11 tricks are no problem as long as declarer first tackles hearts and then takes a safety Eassee through West for the queen of spades. However, many of the Wests whose partners preempted in diamonds knew what sort of suit to expect in the opposite

hand, and selected a club as the opening salvo.

Where the jack of clubs was led, declarer ducked the first trick and, since East was unable to return the suit, the contract again easily produced two overtricks. Yet it could have been defeated. If West was going to lead a club, surely the king would have been a better choice. If declarer holds the ace and queen, even if in different hands, there are always two tricks to bank. The lead of the king wins if any of the other three players holds a singleton queen and would have been devastating here. Even with a successful spade finesse, declarer has only eight tricks.



# Sports

## JBF resumes local basketball agenda

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Following the completion of their national team agenda in the first half of the year, the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) is back to its local timetable this week with the start of the second division tournament.

Only seven teams are taking part. Homentmen and Al Hussein who were relegated last year, in addition to Al Yarmouk are the top contenders.

The competing teams will be playing the first round in two groups. Group A includes Gazzer Hashem, Al Ashrafieh and Al Hussein who will be playing in Irbid. Group B teams will be playing in Amman. They are Homentmen, Al Jeel, Yarmouk and Karak.

The top two of each group will play a knockout second round starting Sept. 18. The winners will then play the final match Sept. 20 to determine the second division champion — the team that will be promoted to the first division next year.

After the conclusion of second division tournament, women's teams will be in action Sept. 25 and the Under-22 teams Oct. 3. Both competitions were abruptly put on hold and postponed following the Aug. 20 U-22 violence that erupted in the Ahli-Orthodox match. Since then Al Orthodox have announced they were pulling out of all JBF competitions.

It was not clear however if Al Orthodox, a powerhouse in Jordanian basketball, will hold on to their controversial decision. If they do and fail to show up for their scheduled matches JBF regulations stipulate that players of a withdrawing team would be automatically free to join other clubs. That would leave only Jazireh, Ahli and Yarmouk in the women's competition and Jazireh, Ahli and Yarmouk in the U-22.

## Coulthard takes pole position

ITALY (R) — David Coulthard on Saturday enhanced his prospects of securing a seat with Ferrari next season when he grabbed pole position for the Italian Grand Prix.

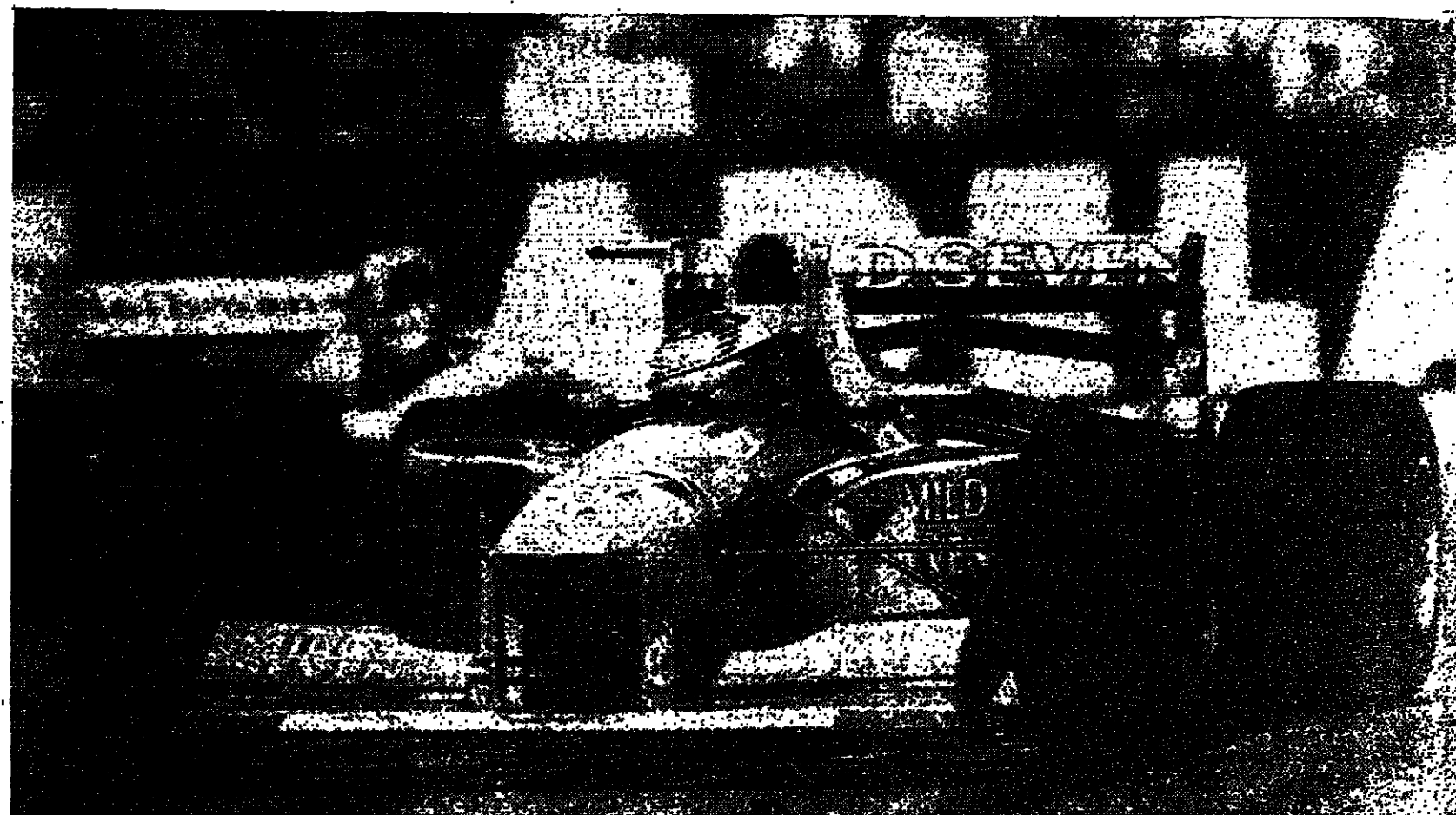
The 24-year-old Scot, who is to be replaced at Williams by Canadian Jacques Villeneuve, was in dominant form again in final qualifying.

He had been quickest throughout Friday's opening session to take the overnight pole position and he continued in the same vein, eclipsing his Williams team mate Damon Hill and pending world champion and current leader Michael Schumacher in a Benetton.

Coulthard's pole was his second of the season and the second of his career, giving him a great chance of claiming his first win.

Schumacher made a big effort in the closing five minutes to force his way on to pole but had to settle for second place alongside his possible future Ferrari team mate.

Their pairing on the front row might be a dream for the Italian fans in 1996 but it was not greatly appreciated on Saturday as it meant the Ferraris of departing Gerhard Berger and Jean Alesi were



Michael Schumacher of Germany in his Benetton (AFP photo)

relegated to third and fifth spots on the grid for Sunday's 66-lap race.

Hill, who slid across a kerb and on to the grass in his bid to improve, ended up fourth-fastest and will start the race from the second row.

The session features a frightening accident when

Italian Luca Badoer lost control of his Minardi at the Variante Ascari. His car crashed backwards into the barriers, spun across a gravel trap and ended up rolling upside down before bouncing to a halt.

The car lost a wheel and the rear wing in the impact

but it appeared that Badoer was only badly shaken.

Badoer's first thought was for his mother. "She will have watched this on television," he said. "I must go and telephone her to tell her I am all right."

Coulthard, who was on pole on Argentina in the second race of the year, was hoping for better luck on Sunday.

In Buenos Aires he led for the opening 14 laps but was then forced to retire.

"I am getting my confidence and my strength back again now," he explained when asked about this recent improvement in form.

"I just need a bit more luck, too. Things are starting to come together... if we get our strategy and our race set-up right I am confident I

am quick enough to win."

Schumacher, is points clear of hill in the title race, was relieved to, earn a place on the front row of the grid. "It has taken me longer than I can remember to find the set-up I needed for a good lap time," he said.

## Stringent security planned for Liverpool visit

MOSCOW (R) — Officials in Russia's troubled north Caucasus have ordered stringent security measures for Liverpool's trip to play Spartak Vladikavkaz in UEFA Cup tie on Tuesday.

"We are hosting a soccer event of that scale and importance for the first time and I can say for us it is larger than life," said police spokesman Viktor Dzhyoyev on a crackly telephone line from Vladikavkaz, capital of the north Ossetia ethnic region some 1,400 kilometres south of Moscow.

"There will be uniformed and plain clothes policemen, security agents everywhere, even army units will be on call."

North Ossetia is neighbouring Chechnya where Russian troops have been fighting local separatists for several months.

Dzhyoyev said special forces in combat gear would be deployed near the Liverpool hotel and the stadium where the first round, first leg match is to be played.

Asked about the number of people involved in the security operation, he said: "We post dozens for ordinary teams, in this case it is more than 1,000."

But Spartan's official Akhsar Kokoyev said Liverpool players and officials should have no fears for their safety.

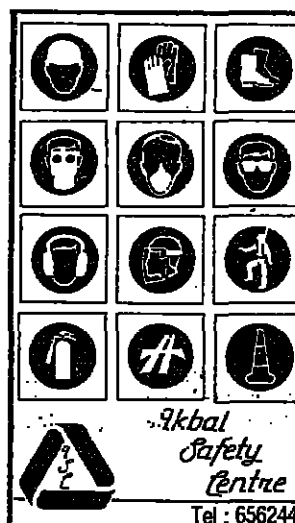
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## Darwazeh leaves for Iraq to renew oil deal

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazeh headed for Iraq to renew an annual agreement under which Iraq supplies Jordan's oil needs, officials said.

The officials, however, would not confirm or deny a report in the local press that the government had ordered the freezing of a study to build a pipeline to pump Iraqi oil to Jordan or whether the pipeline project was in the agenda for Mr. Darwazeh's talks in Baghdad.

However, industry sources quoted by news agencies said the project was to be discussed by Mr. Darwazeh and his Iraqi counterpart, General Amer Rasheed, who took office three months ago.

It is the first visit of a Jordanian cabinet minister to Iraq following the Aug. 8 defection to Jordan of two senior Iraqi officials and follows the reported receipt of a message from a deputy to President Saddam Hussein that Baghdad was keen to maintain its strong ties with Jordan despite the Jordanian decision to grant the defectors asylum.

The message came from Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Mr. Darwazeh was scheduled to leave for Baghdad on Sept. 1 for discussions on the oil contract as well as the proposal for 600-kilometre that will run from the Iraqi

town of Haditha to the Kingdom's only refinery at Zarqa.

But the minister's visit was postponed because of "technical reasons," officials said last week, emphasising that the postponement was not related to an uneasiness in relations between Baghdad and Amman following the defection of Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel, his brother Saddam Kamel and their wives, both daughters of President Saddam.

Jordan imports 50,000 barrels of crude and 20,000 barrels of fuel oil every day from Iraq and is the only country allowed to import oil from the Kingdom's eastern neighbour, which is under international sanctions that bar all exports.

The projected pipeline will have an initial capacity of 100,000 barrels per day and will replace the present trucking system, which Mr. Darwazeh has described as expensive and hazardous. It costs Jordan about JD 30 million per year to transport Iraqi oil.

The Arabic-language daily Al Ra'i reported Saturday that the government had ordered a study on the project to be frozen as a result of a "financing problem" for the Iraqi section of the pipeline.

According to Al Ra'i, each country was expected to finance its section of the pipeline.

In addition to the purported problem, Al Ra'i said, "recent political developments had weighed on the decision to shelve the study as fears have risen of a stoppage in Iraqi oil supplies to Jordan and the possibility has

risen that Jordan would turn to oil from the Gulf states."

However, sources quoted by Reuters described the pipeline as "a priority project" and it was scheduled to be discussed by Mr. Darwazeh and his Iraqi counterpart.

According to the source, Mr. Darwazeh will assure Iraq that Jordan does not plan to suspend its oil imports from Iraq in the "foreseeable future" and seeks "strategic long-term cooperation" once the international sanctions on Iraq are lifted.

The economics of buying from Iraq outweigh at least in the short term the "high economic and political cost of switching to Saudi oil," Reuters quoted the source as saying.

According to Reuters, Jordan pays market price for 25,000 barrels per day of Iraqi crude at market prices and for another 25,000 bpd of petroleum products. "The rest is at undisclosed concessionary terms," the agency reported.

The precise conditions of the Iraqi oil sale are not known. Mr. Darwazeh said in an interview early this year that Iraq was giving Jordan a \$1 per barrel discount on international market prices.

Part of the oil supply is adjusted against Iraqi debts to Jordan and part is settled in Jordanian exports of food and medicine.

According to the Reuters report, \$400 million is deposited yearly in an escrow account at the Central Bank of Jordan to pay Jordanian firms for the exports of food and medicine.

## Iraqis resigned, tearful over sanctions extension

BAGHDAD (R) — Women scoured a Baghdad market on Saturday in search of a few onions and tomatoes while small, barefooted boys wearing torn trousers begged for food and money.

It was the day after the United Nations Security Council decided yet again not to modify the Gulf war sanctions that have devastated Iraq's oil-fuelled economy, and Iraqis were having to bear up under the strain, as they have now for five years.

"Only Allah can fill my basket again with vegetables, meat and chicken," said Um Mujbil, her eyes filled with tears. "See? Even onions and tomatoes are now too expensive to buy."

Shoppers, gloomy and disappointed, feared another hike in prices of essential commodities, already out of reach of most Iraqis.

The sanctions have caused hyperinflation and a drastic decline in the value of the Iraqi dinar. Two kilos of meat or chicken now cost more than what most civil servants earn in a month.

The country's elite and officialdom, meanwhile, saw little prospect of change in the sanctions, imposed on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Salah Al Mukhtar, editor-in-chief of the government newspaper Al Jumhuriya, said in a television interview late on Friday that he did not believe sanctions would be lifted in the foreseeable future.

"I do not say the embargo will be lifted within months. I do not say three months. We need a period of six months to rearrange Iraq's conditions with the U.N.... and continue the march of removing obstacles leading to the lifting of the economic embargo," Mr. Mukhtar said.

Two months ago, many Iraqis entertained the hope of an easing of the oil embargo following a rather positive report by the U.N.'s chief arms inspector, Rolf Ekeus.

The main stipulation for lifting the sanctions is that Iraq dismantle its weapons of mass destruction and provide documentation on past weapons programmes.

But all hope was shattered when Iraq made startling revelations about its chemical warfare and nuclear bomb programmes in a bid to preempt disclosures by a key government defector who fled to Jordan on Aug. 8.

Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel, a son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein,

who fled to Jordan with his family and another of President Saddam's sons-in-law, was widely believed to be the brains of Iraq's military and civil industries.

Iraq afterwards revealed that it had loaded 200 bombs and warheads with lethal germs and toxins and went on a crash programme to test a nuclear bomb in 1991.

The United States, the main advocate of sanctions on Iraq, called on Friday for a reevaluation of long-term U.N. monitoring of Baghdad's weapons following the disclosures.

U.S. Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations Edward Gnehm said that "Iraq has totally squandered what little credibility, if any, it had."

Iraq admits that Hussein Kamel's defection and the subsequent disclosures of hidden arms information has had a negative impact on its case at the Security Council.

But the politics of it were lost on women shoppers in Baghdad.

"We only say, 'May Allah curse those responsible for the sanctions,'" said Sa'diya Hameed. "What's our fault? It is a political game and we are the victims."

## Palestinians protest Halhoul killing

HALHOUL (R) — Hundreds of angry Palestinians marched in the West Bank town of Halhoul on Saturday in protest against the killing of an Arab man by masked men wearing Israeli army uniforms, witnesses said.

An Israeli militant group called Eyal sent electronic messages to Israeli reporters on Friday saying it shot dead Salmaan Zamari, 25, at his home in Halhoul. The group said the killing was part of its struggle against the 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal.

Witnesses said more than 1,500 people carrying pictures of Zamari, Palestinian flags and placards denouncing the murder marched from the centre of Halhoul to his family's home via the cemetery where he was buried.

"Rest in peace Salmaan, your people will avenge your death," the crowd chanted.

Israeli soldiers stayed away from the march. About 40 Palestinian youths with their faces covered by masks burned a U.S. flag at the start of the protest.

## Over 70% of Israelis favour talks with PLO

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Fifty-four per cent of Israelis think the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is a "terrorist" organisation but an overwhelming majority believe that peace talks with the group should continue, according to a poll announced Saturday.

The survey of 800 Israelis was conducted by the statistics department at the University of Haifa — 14 months before the next legislative elections.

According to the poll read on Israeli radio, 54 per cent of those interviewed consider PLO leader Yasser Arafat the "head of a terrorist organisation" while 20 per cent consider him the head of a "political movement."

Another 13.5 per cent consider him a partner in negotiations and less than one per cent think of him as a "friend."

Despite these feelings, 72 per cent of Israelis believe that negotiations with the PLO should continue.

If right-wing opposition Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu comes to power, 51 per cent said he should continue talks with Mr. Arafat, 21 per cent want them differently, "fierently," and 21

per cent said the negotiations should be stopped.

Asked the same question, 31 per cent of voters affiliated with the Israeli right-wing parties said talks should continue, 30 per cent want their direction changed, and 32 per cent are against them.

On Mr. Arafat's image since the declaration of principles on autonomy signed in September 1993, 61 per cent of Israelis said he has not changed, 25 per cent see him in a "less negative" light and eight per cent "more negative."

The majority of Israelis believe that a Palestinian state can exist next to the Jewish state, with 31 per cent responding favourably without reservations, while 41 per cent said such a state could exist "under certain conditions."

Only 26 per cent of those interviewed opposed the idea.

The remaining percentage points in the poll are those who did not respond.

Israeli Tourism Minister Uzi Baram said "The results prove that Israelis have made the distinction between what they think of Yasser Arafat and the imperatives of the peace process."



BUILDUP: American aircraft carriers Abraham Lincoln and the Independence cruise the central waters of the Gulf. Sailing 500 metres apart and surrounded by seven cruisers and destroyers, the two carriers are deployed in the Gulf after the U.S. said it detected "unusual" Iraqi troop movements (see page one) (AFP photo)

## Iran to build only 1 nuclear plant -- envoy

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's ambassador to Moscow says Tehran will build no nuclear reactors other than a partially-finished power plant Russia has agreed to complete over U.S. objections, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Saturday.

The official agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mehdi Safari as saying that "Iran will sign no other agreement on building another nuclear power plant."

It was the first time an Iranian official has made such a pledge and it was not immediately clear whether that marked a significant change in policy by Tehran.

Iranian officials have been quoted as saying 10 nuclear plants were planned.

But Washington claims Iran is engaged in a clandestine programme to develop nuclear weapons — which Tehran denies — and is pressuring the Russians to scrap the reactor deal.

A Russian delegation is due in Washington this week and the Iranians may be seeking to take the heat off Moscow.

Mr. Safari told reporters in the Russian capital Friday that Moscow had agreed to finish the power plant near the Gulf port city of Bushehr at a cost of \$800 million, IRNA reported.

He said Iran had spent \$3.5 billion on the facility before work was stopped by its original German contractors following the 1979 revolution.

The project was started by Kraftwerke Union, a Siemens subsidiary, five years before the revolution which toppled the pro-Western Iranian monarchy and brought Muslim fundamentalist rule to Iran.

Germany has since refused export permits for vital equipment for the facility, which was damaged in Iraqi bombing raids during the 1980-88 Gulf war.

Earlier reports indicated that Russia would finish work in the 1,300-megawatt reactor within three years.

U.S. officials have suggested Iran intends to buy up to four nuclear reactors from Russia. They have warned Tehran could use the technology to speed up an alleged clandestine nuclear weapons programme.

Iran has dismissed Israeli and U.S. assessments that it may be only five to 10 years away from developing its own atomic bomb and insists the reactors would be used only to generate electricity.

Some experts on Iran doubt whether the country has the capacity or the know-how to sustain a clandestinely acquired nuclear programme.

U.S. diplomats have warned Russian officials that providing nuclear technology to Iran is dangerous, and that Tehran cannot afford to pay for it anyhow.

But Mr. Safari insisted: "Although Iran does not claim to be a very rich country, it can afford the required capital for realising the project."

## Crackdown on foreigners sparks exodus from Libya

### Lebanon keeps its door closed against Palestinians with non-Lebanese papers

SALLOUM, Egypt (Agencies) — Hundreds of Egyptians and Sudanese are fleeing Libya to escape a police crackdown on illegal immigrants, Egyptian travellers said on Saturday.

They said many had been made homeless as Libyans feared to give them shelter because of a sweep following Wednesday's clashes in Benghazi in which around 20 militants and 10 policemen were reported to have died.

"Hundreds of Egyptians and Sudanese have been caught by the Libyan authorities because they don't have a work contract which has forced them to leave the country to avoid problems," one traveller said.

Security has also been stepped up since Wednesday's unrest, Egyptian travellers said. Tripoli, itself, has denied any deadly clashes took place in the eastern city.

Libyan security men at the Messad border post with Egypt had "a list of suspects, and were questioning people in detail and combing vehicles," another traveller told AFP.

The travellers at the Salloom border post said hundreds of Sudanese had also been sent back in the past few days across the Libya-Sudan border.

The repatriations were confirmed by a spokesman for the Sudanese embassy in the Egyptian capital who told AFP that "several hundred" people had been affected.

Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir has ordered preparations to be made for the influx, newspapers in Khartoum reported.

Government agencies have been instructed to be ready and a special committee has been set up to oversee health care, transportation and issue travel documents.

Wednesday's troubles followed clashes in June in Benghazi blamed by Tripoli on infiltrators from Egypt and Sudan. Mass arrests followed and about 3,000 Egyptian nationals whose papers were not in order were expelled.

Libyans were urged not to lodge foreigners, especially those from Egypt and Sudan, whose contracts or residency permits had run out.

About 1.5 million foreigners work in Libya including between 800,000 and 900,000 Egyptians, according to official figures in Cairo.

Lebanon keeps door closed

Meanwhile, Lebanon said its doors would stay closed to Palestinian workers being thrown out of Libya, even those who had Lebanese travel documents, because it could not cope with mass arrivals.

On Friday, Beirut ordered the closure of sea routes between the two countries, amid reports that hundreds of expelled Palestinians were heading for Lebanon.

Interior Minister Michel Murr announced the "preventive measure" after about 350 Palestinians had entered Lebanon in recent days from Libya carrying special Lebanese travel documents issued to refugees.

"It's a temporary measure to halt the influx until the cabinet takes a final decision on this issue," he said.

The cabinet is not likely to meet before Wednesday because Prime Minister Rafik Hariri is currently on a private visit to France.

Travel to and from Libya, which is under United Nations sanctions for refusing to hand over suspects in the 1987 bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet in which 290 people were killed, is restricted to sea and land routes because of an aviation ban.

The government cannot stop Palestinians who have legal status in Lebanon from coming through other countries.

Mr. Murr said those who have already entered the country legally cannot be deported.

About 325,000 Palestinians live in Lebanon, mainly in 11 refugee camps.

Only those who arrived in Lebanon in 1948, and their offsprings — totalling about 150,000 — have legal status and carry special Lebanese travel documents.

There are some 30,000 Palestinians in Libya. In a Sept. 1 speech marking the 26th anniversary of the military coup that put him in power, Libyan leader Col. Qadhafi urged Arab countries to expel Palestinians to the West Bank and Gaza Strip to expose what he called the deception of the 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement.

Col. Qadhafi is a staunch opponent of the self-rule accord with Israel.

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## First Prince William story hits British tabloids

LONDON (R) — Britain's media were asked to leave Prince William, second in line to the throne, in peace once he started lessons at Eton College. On Saturday, just two days into term, the first "royal exclusive" hit the front pages. "Weirdest in Eton raid" read the headline on the best-selling Sun, revealing how "matron hits panic button as intruder breaks into school on Wills' second day". A matron at the fee-paying school, considered Britain's most elite educational establishment, pressed a panic security button when she found the intruder in a dormitory. Police then arrested the unnamed woman, the Sun said. There was no indication she got anywhere near Prince William. The Sun said the 31-year-old woman had been a man before a sex change operation. She had mental problems and a moustache. The future king, son of heir to the throne Prince Charles and Princess Diana, started lessons Thursday after a high-profile arrival with his estranged parents the day before. The media have been sternly warned by Britain's press regulator not to invade the prince's privacy after capturing his first moments.

## Senegalese president returns after surgery

DAKAR (reuter) — Senegalese President Abdou Diouf returned home after six weeks of medical treatment in Paris. Mr. Diouf, 60, told reporters at the airport he had made a full recovery from back surgery. He left Senegal on July 26.

## Man jailed for torn lottery ticket scam

LONDON (AFP) — A British man who claimed his dog had torn up a winning lottery ticket, and tried to obtain a six-figure prize by presenting bits of different tickets, was given a one-year jail sentence. James Madel, 23, had gone to the offices of Camelot, the private company which runs the British lottery, after the first-ever draw on Nov. 21 last year. Claiming £839,000 (\$1.34 million) as a share of the £6 million (\$9.6 million) jackpot, he contacted the press and posed for photographers. Mr. Madel claimed that the two halves of the ticket in his possession were from the same winning one, torn to pieces by his pet dog. His lawyer said during the trial that the young man, a delivery driver and part-time model, had a rather unstable character and lived in a fantasy world. He insisted that his client did not really intend to swindle Camelot, but only wanted to attract publicity. Mr. Madel had already been sentenced to three years in prison in May 1993 for a string of minor offences, but was freed after serving half his sentence.

## Family elders seek meeting on Mandela divorce

EAST LONDON, South Africa (AP) — Elders in the tribal families of President Nelson Mandela and his estranged wife Winnie want to try to prevent the couple from divorcing. Mr. Mandela, 77, has ordered his lawyers to seek a divorce which Mrs. Mandela reportedly will contest. The couple, who have two children and several grandchildren, separated in 1992. According to Xhosa tribal tradition, elderly clan members intervene in troubled marriages by holding a meeting with the couple to learn what problems exist. Nelson Mandela comes from the Tembu clan, while Winnie comes from the Royal Madikizela clan of the Pondos.